

Years of Cultural Output

1989 - 2012

Eighth Edition

Kuwait

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Eloquence could be as charming as magic; and poetry could contain wisdom.

Hadith

Preface

The creation of a foundation that attends to Arabic poetry and celebrates the Arab poets was one of my dearest and most urging dreams. It all started the moment I realized the unique value of poetry in building past, present and future nations. It was God's will that my dearest of dreams was realized when I was able to launch The Foundation of Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain's Prize for Poetic Creativity in Cairo, the great Arab cultural capital.

Establishing the Foundation was not a cultural luxury, nor was it a demonstration of financial capabilities or a mere stubborn insistence of realizing a dream. Rather, it was a determination to reinstitute the role of poetry in the life of our nation, as poetry has always been one of the most distinguished Arabic literary forms. It is the Diwan of the Arabs and their reliable register in which the details of their lives were recorded and preserved for thousands of years, given that the poet is a man of creativity, talent and insight.

Our passion for poetry, as Arabs, was not groundless, it emerged from what poetry has been - and always will be - a presentation of Arabic life itself. Poetry for Arabs is a means of satisfying the self, the soul and even the body. He inhales from poetry whatever pleases the self, elevates the soul and delights the ear.

Many questions have come to mind regarding various established facts: Since Britain is so proud of Shakespeare, France of Baudelaire and Hugo, Russia cherishes Pushkin, Spain of Lorca, Pakistan considers Mohammed Iqbal one of its greatest founders who, through his poetry, heralded its very existence, and Iran boasts of its poets Omar Al-Khayyam, Hafez and Saadi Al-Shirazi. Then, it is the right of the Arab nation to feel proud of a golden galaxy of great poets from Amru Al-Qais, Zuhair, Al-Nabigha, Labeed, Al-Bohturi, Al-Mutanabbi, Al-Maari, Ahmed Shawqi, Al-Shabi, Al-Akhtal Al-Saghir and Al-Sayyab, a chain that has not been disrupted for more than fifteen centuries. Indisputably, the Arabs, have the largest number of poets.

Is it not the right of the Arabs of this day and age to put aside their sorrows and defeats for a short period and enjoy reading the creative poetry of Antarah and Amr bin Kulthoum? Why should the creativity of Al- Mutanabbi - who engaged the world and people, the philosophical poetry of Al-Ma'ari, the romantic poetry of the Platonic Ibn Abi Rabia and the pre-Islamic Muallaqat, be confined only in the world of academics, researchers and some admirers?

Why do we not allow the Arab ear hear that beautiful, musical art the same way it hears poetry when it is sung by prominent singers?

It is important for all of us to think and act adequately as the project needs all efforts possible. Evidence to the credibility of what we say lies in the increasing number of institutions that attend to verse and prose in most Arab countries and initiate

pioneering projects to authenticate, criticize and publish poetry, vocally and automatically, not including its publications in their first and foremost form; the book.

These queries and statements, added to my earlier desires, have enhanced my belief in the necessity of establishing the Foundation without delay or hesitation. Now that the Foundation is celebrating its sixteenth anniversary, I feel very pleased with the successes it has attained through cooperation with our friends - admirers of poetry all over the Arab world - a success for which I thank God the Almighty and commend all those who contributed to it in all its forms.

Finally, I wish poets, critics, researchers and all those working in this exalted field all the success. In addition, I deem it my duty to highlight all the efforts exerted by employees of the Foundation, as well as counterpart establishments, to promote this most splendid Arab heritage.

Dear Reader

This website comes in response to the desire of a great number of the Foundation's friends, as well as those who admire it and follow up its activities, with the hope that it would be beneficial. Gratitude should be paid to Allah the Almighty.

Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain
Kuwait
March, 2012

Order your dependants to learn poetry, for it is the guide to Moral Highness, correctness of opinion and the knowledge of offspring.

Omar Bin Al-Khattab
(May God be pleased with him)

Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain

A Short Biography: Milestones and Achievements

- Born in Kuwait in 1936.

- A prominent Kuwaiti poet and businessman who is well known in Kuwait, the Gulf and the Arab world.

- He published his first book of verse (Diwan) «Intimations of the Deserts» (Bauh Al-Bawadi) in 1995.

- He published his second book of verse (Diwan)«Wastefarer» (Mosafer Fi Al-Qaffar) in 2004.

- A member of the Writers Association in Kuwait.

- A member of the Kuwaiti National Committee for Learning.

- A corresponding member of the Arabic Language Academy in Damascus.

- A member of the Board of Trustees of the «Arab Thought Foundation» and one of its founders.

- A member of the Fez Saiss Cultural Society in Morocco.

- A member of the Board of Trustees of the Arab Cultural Foundation in Beirut.

- A member of the Board of Trustees of the Gulf University in Bahrain.

- A member of the Board of Trustees of the Faculty of Arts, Kuwait University.

- He delivered many lectures and participated in a great number of seminars. Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain was granted a number of Honorary PhD certificates in appreciation for his efforts in the field of culture including:

1. An Honorary PhD certificate from the University of Tashkent, Uzbekistan in 1995, for his role in enriching Islamic Culture.

2. An Honorary PhD certificate from the University of Baku, Azerbaijan in 2000, for his role in serving Arab and Islamic Culture and Literature.

3. An Honorary PhD certificate from the University of Yarmouk, Jordan in 2001, for his distinctive contributions in the fields of literature, culture and poetic creativity.

4. An Honorary PhD certificate in the field of Human Sciences from the Kuwaiti Kyrgyz University in 2002.

5. An Honorary PhD certificate in Human Sciences from the University of Joy, Kyrgyzstan in 2002.

6. An Honorary PhD certificate from the University of Algiers on May 11, 2005.

7. An Honorary PhD certificate from the University of Sidi Mohamed Ben Abdella, Fez, 2006.

8. An Honorary PhD certificate from the University of Khartoum, Sudan in 2007.

9. An Honorary PhD certificate from Al-Farabi National University in Kazakhstan, May, 2009.

Awards and Decorations

Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain received the following medals in appreciation for his efforts in the field of Arabic culture:

1. He was decorated with the Cultural Order of Merit in the First Degree from H.E. the President of the Republic of Tunis on 18/06/1996.

2. The Independence Order in the First Degree from His Majesty the King of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, on 06/02/2001.

3. The State Award from the National Council of Culture, Arts and Letters in the State of Kuwait, in 2002.

4. The Cedar Order, in the rank of Officer, from the President of the Republic of Lebanon, in 2004.

5. The Gold Medal of Distinction from the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization during the final session of the Fourteenth Conference of Arab Cultural Ministers at the Republican Palace in Sana'a

6. Kuwait Order of the Sash, First Degree on 14/6/2005 from H.H. the Amir of the State of Kuwait.

7. The Appreciation Award for Science, Literature and Arts from H.E. the President of the Republic of Sudan at the Republic Presidency Premises in Khartoum on December 31, 2005.

8. The Knight order from the Italian Ambassador to Kuwait, on behalf of H.E. President Giorgio Napolitano on 09/02/2009.

9. High Level Order of Civil Merits from the Spanish Ambassador to Kuwait, on behalf of His Majesty King Juan Carlos for his cultural efforts that lead to the teaching of Arabic language in Andalusia schools on 07/12/2009.

10. 'Thomas Aquinas Cultural Award' award from the University of Cordoba for his for his academic services towards the university and the civilization of the Andalusia region.

11. High-Level Order from the Ruler of Ajman, H.H. Sheikh Hamid bin Rashed Al-Nuaimi for his social services offered in the fields of education, culture and poetic creativity.

12- The Commando Order of Honor, Green Crescent-type, from Colonel Hassan Harun, Counselor in Presidency, on behalf of Ikililou Dhoinine, President of Comoros on 19/ 10/ 2011.

13- Chinguetti Foundation for Culture and Development granted him the Burda of Poetry and Shield of the Country of the one Million Poet in 28/4/2012.

14- Certificate of Appreciation from the U.S. Representative, Stapejano, and a welcome letter from the representative of the State of Michigan in the U.S. Congress; Carl Levin.

15- Certificate of Appreciation from the U.S. Congressman; Jhon Dingell.

16- College Dnberg awarded him the high-level Medal of Excellence at the international level in 28/5/2012.

17- The European Parliament in Brussels, Belgium, honored him, in recognition of his role in promoting dialogue among civilizations.

In addition, a number of celebrations were held to honor him at many cultural societies, forums, institutions, international book exhibitions, and distinguished personalities in Kuwait and the Arab world (see his ID).

His Efforts in Various Fields

He established and fully financed:-

1. The Foundation of Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain's Prize for Poetic Creativity.

The Foundation is concerned with Arabic poetry and Arab poets, for which this edition is exclusively dedicated.

2. The Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain's Prize for «Imam Al-Bukhari's Grandchildren:

An annual prize worth US$100,000 and it aims to restore the genuine cultural bridges between the Arab Nation and the recently independent Asian Islamic states.

3. The Saud Al-Babtain Kuwaiti Commission for Higher Education Studies:

Mr. Abdulaziz Suad Al-Babtain established this Commission in 1974 and it grants 100 scholarships annually, to students from Islamic countries in central Asia to study at Al-Azhar University in Cairo. Every year, it also grants 50 scholarships to students in Africa and 100 scholarships to Iraqi students. The Commission also covers the costs of accommodation, food, clothing, air travel, tuition fees and book expenses, as well as medical treatment which they may require during their stay in Cairo. The total number of students and graduates that have benefited from this commission has now reached some 7,000.

After receiving 45 students from Africa, Asia and Europe, the Commission granted all of them the «Saud Al-Babtain Kuwaiti Scholarship for Postgraduate Studies,» enabling them to continue their studies until they obtain a doctorate degree from Al-Azhar University.

4. The Al-Babtain Central Library for Arabic Poetry in Kuwait.

Its first stone was laid during a ceremony on 6/01/2002 and it was inaugurated on 08/04/2006 under the patronage of H.H. the Amir of Kuwait, Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

5. The Al-Babtain Translation Center

It was established in 2004 and it contributes to the Foundation by translating foreign languages, specifically from English to Arabic and vice versa.

6. Courses in Prosody, Poetry Appreciation and Arabic Language Skills

These are free, four-month courses and were set up in 2000 in cooperation with over 46 Arab and foreign universities. The courses' objective is to raise awareness and understanding of poetry, prosody and linguistics and it has held 270 courses throughout the Arab world and the Islamic countries since 2010 and has graduated more than 20,000 students.

7. The Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain Center for Inter-Civilization Dialogue

This center was established in 2004 and Professor Abdullah Al-Mohanna was selected as the consultant. The center works in cooperation with Arab and foreign universities to organize sci-

entific training courses in the fields of philology, culture and historical tourism. The center is responsible for organizing courses for foreign tour conductors in their own countries as well as reactivating cooperation with Arab and foreign universities, such as that between the Al-Babtain Foundation and the Universities of Cordoba, Granada, Malaga and Seville in coordinating the «Al-Babtain Professorship for Arabic Language».

An agreement was reached with the Spanish University of Cordoba to allocate an award in the name of «Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain's Andalusia Prize» as an international prize, initially specialized in the role played by the Andalusia villages, which contributed to the creation of its civilization but was not studied or researched in the depth as other Andalusia cities like Cordoba, Seville and Granada. The Center started to arrange similar academic cooperation with the University of Granada.

An Overview of the Foundation

Work Regulation Bylaws

1. Articles of Association

The Foundation shall be known as «The Foundation of Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain's Prize for Poetic Creativity». It was proclaimed in 1989 in Cairo by virtue of an initiative from Mr. Abdulaziz Saud Al- Babtain as a private, cultural and non-profit organization that is exclusively concerned with poetry. Thereupon, the Foundation's Memorandum of Association was approved according to the following:-

Article One: Definitions

The idioms and expressions mentioned in the Foundation's Memorandum of Association and its complementary regulations shall have the respective meanings assigned to them hereunder:

- The Foundation: The Foundation of Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain's Prize for Poetic Creativity.
- The Prize: Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain Prize for Poetic Creativity
- The Two Centuries Lexicon: The Al-Babtain Encyclopedia of Arab Poets During the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries.
- The Encyclopedia of Contemporary Arabs Poets: The Al-Babtain Encyclopedia of Contemporary Arab Poets.
- The Board of Trustees of the Foundation of Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain's Prize for Poetic Creativity
- Chairman: Chairman of the Board of Trustees and the Foundation's sole proprietor and financer.
- The Secretary General: The Secretary General of the Foundation.
- The Committee: The arbitration committee of the prize.

Article Two: The Headquarters

The Foundation's main headquarters shall be in Cairo, where the meetings of the Board of Trustees, bodies affiliated to the Foundation and the arbitration committees shall convene. Some of the meetings however, may be held in other Arab countries upon the order of the Foundation's Chairman.

Article Three: The Foundation's Objectives

The objectives of the Foundation shall be mainly; enriching the Arabic poetry movement, poetry criticism, encouraging communication between poets and those interested in Arabic poetry and enhancing links among them, through:

1. Organizing a general, biannual contest in Arabic poetry and its criticism as part of the Foundation's courses, honoring outstanding winners in these fields.
2. Publishing a series of «Al-Babtain Encyclopedias» of contemporary and late Arab poets.
3. Issuing publications on poets who took part in the Founda-

tion's meetings. These publications shall include: their books of verse and their other creative achievements as well as studies regarding their biographies and literature.

4. Organizing a literary seminar which coincides with a meeting in the name of a chosen poet. Such a seminar would include research concerning some poetry issues and poetry criticism, in addition to organizing poetry recitation events in which an elite group of Arab poets participate.
5. Organizing qualitative poetic meetings conforming to the Board of Trustees' decisions, such as Nabati poetry meetings or other meetings held by other organizations.
6. Establishing the Al-Babtain Central Library for Arabic poetry, and literature, criticism and historical studies related to poetry and poets.
7. Establishing the Arabic poetry audio library containing audio-visual recordings by artists and announcers of selected poetry recitations of late and contemporary poets.
8. Reinforcing relations with literary and poetic associations, societies and unions throughout the Arab countries.
9. Contacting Arabic language professors at Arab Universities, and in Oriental Studies departments at foreign universities, to explore means of cooperation in the field of Arabic poetry, regarding creativity, criticism and research.

Article Four: The Foundation's Prizes

These shall be made public through advertisements published in major Arab newspapers. It is one of the most important means of attaining the goals which the Foundation had originally established and which started with the initiation of the prizes. The Foundation's prizes were awarded to the winners for the first time in May 1990. The prize was awarded to the winners on annual basis, but in 1992 its value was raised to its present value and the decision was taken to award it biannually.

A- Prize Categories

1. The Honorary Prize for Creativity in Poetry

Its value is estimated at US$50,000 (US Dollars fifty thousand) and it is awarded to an Arab Poet who, through his poetic creativity, enriched the Arabic poetry movement through distinguished poetic contributions. It is an honorary award which is not subject to arbitration but rather to a special process set forth and executed by the Chairman of the Board of Trustees.

2. The Prize for Creativity in Poetry Criticism

Its value is estimated at US$40,000 (U.S. Dollars forty thousand) and it is awarded to a poetry critic or researcher who exerted distinctive efforts in analyzing and explaining poetic texts, or studied poetry or a phenomenon in light of an objective approach. Such a study should be creative, innovative and of high artistic value that represents a real contribution to critical studies in the field of poetry.

3. The Prize for the Best Poetry Diwan (Book of Verse)

Its value is estimated at US$20,000 (U.S. Dollars twenty thousand) and it is awarded to the author of the best book of verse published within a time span of five years prior to the 31st of October in the year preceding the awarding of the prize.

4. The Prize for the Best Poem

Its value is estimated at US$10,000 (U.S. Dollars ten thousand) and it is awarded for the best poem published for the first time in literary magazines, newspapers, books of verse or in independent books within two years prior to the 31st of October in the year preceding the awarding of the prize.

B- Terms and Conditions of the Prize

1. The honorary prize for creativity in the field of poetry and its criticism shall be awarded under the condition that the experience of the poet and critic is outstanding in these move-

ments in that they enhance Arab culture, regarding leadership, authenticity and creativity, provided they reveal Arab originality and the nation's civilization aspirations.

2. Artistic distinction is a basic condition of awarding the prize to the best collection of poems and the best poem.

C- Terms and Conditions of Applying for the Prizes

1. The poetic product should be written in classical Arabic language.

2. Applicants for the award in the field of poetry criticism should submit their best work in the said field, provided the most recent have not been published before ten years prior to the 31st of October of the year preceding the distribution of awards. It is according to this that the applicant should specify the category of the award they are competing in. They are entitled to send their complete works in criticism for further enlightenment.

3. Applicants for the best book of verse prize may not present more than one book of verse, provided the said book should carry a reference number (clear depositary number) in the country in which it was published and that printing the book, its publication and its distribution are authentic.

4. The applicant for the best poem prize may not present more than one poem provided the said poem was published and submitted in the form in which it was published.

5. Poems published in non accredited pamphlets such as advertisement, promoting pamphlets, etc. shall not be accepted.

6. Poems written by more than one poet shall be excluded.

7. Applicants may not take part in more than one branch of the prize

D- General Terms and Conditions

1. The applicant must send a clear letter of nomination wherein they indicate their explicit desire to apply for a certain branch of the prize and the title and type of their work.

2. The applicant must send their curriculum vitae including: their surname, full name as written in the travel document, date and place of birth, postal address and telephone number, in addition to a copy of their creative product and three recent 10 x15cm photos.

3. The applicant must send eight copies of their submitted product to any of the prizes.

4. The nomination letter and the curriculum vitae must be clearly separated.

5. Applicants for any of the prizes must explicitly and clearly mention in the nomination letter that the submitted work has not won any other Arab awards. In case the contrary was proved, the Foundation is entitled to deem the result of the prize invalid.

6. If the applicant has won any Arab award in a category they are applying for, they may not reapply for the same category until five years have elapsed and provided they submit different works.

7. If an applicant has won any award issued by the Foundation, they may not reapply for the same category but they may apply for a different one.

8. Those who took part in the arbitrating works nominated for the Foundation's prizes may not apply for any of its categories prior to the lapse of two meetings from the date of their participation as an arbitrator.

9. The Foundation is entitled to republish the winning poems as well as selected works from the winners' literary product.

10. The Foundation shall not be bound to return the products submitted for its awards whether applicants win or not.

11. The deadline to apply for the award's three categories must be before the 31st of October of the year preceding the organization of the meeting. Any application which is submitted there after shall not be accepted.

12. The results shall be announced in the second half of each even calendar year. The awards shall be distributed during a public ceremony held in October of the same year.

E- Nominations

The nominations for the three categories of the award shall be through:-

1. Universities, cultural institutions, public and private bodies and writers unions and associations, provided the candidates' written agreements thereto, in compliance with the announced terms and conditions, must be attached.

2. A poet or a critic may nominate themselves directly through the Foundation.

3. Under certain circumstances, the Board of Trustees may nominate candidates for the award.

4. All nominations should be sent to the Foundation's General Secretariat.

Article Five: Management of the Prize

Management of the prize as well as planning the awarding ceremony shall be carried out by the Board of Trustees of the Foundation of Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain's Prize for Poetic Creativity.

Article Six: Arbitration

1. After being assured that the products submitted for the Foundation's prize is compatible with the announced terms and conditions form, as far as formalities are concerned, they shall then be submitted to the arbitration committees, mainly comprised of specialists in poetry and poetry criticism. The decision taken by the committees shall be final after its approval by the Board of Trustees.

2. The Board of Trustees shall form arbitration committees for each session. This shall work in compliance with the arbitration, bylaws and regulations.

Article Seven: Encyclopedia Bodies

Planning and following up publications of Al-Babtain's Encyclopedia of Contemporary Arab Poets editions shall be executed by a body of specialists who act in accordance with a special working plan.

Preparations for publishing the «Al-Babtain Encyclopedia of Arab Poets in the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries» and the encyclopedic series of the late poets who followed, shall be undertaken by the Encyclopedia Editing Office at the Foundation's General Secretariat, under the supervision of an advisory body presided by the Foundation's Chairman.

2. The Board of Trustees' Bylaws

The Foundation and its cultural projects, which include the prize, forming the arbitration committees and approving the results of such committees, shall be administered by a Board of Trustees. It is comprised of a number of prominent literary intellectuals from the Arab world, which carry out its work in accordance with the regulations adopted by the Chairman of the Board. They are stipulated as follows:

Article One: The Board of Trustees of The Foundation of Abdulaziz Saud Al- Babtain's Prize for Poetic Creativity is comprised of the Foundation Secretary General and at least nine members of the men of letters in the Arab world. The Board shall be chaired by Mr. Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain or whoever he deputizes.

Article Two: The Board of Trustees shall administer the Foundation's prize and announce its plans. The Board shall be responsible for approving all that is related to the award as per its conditions, categories, announcement, naming the arbitration committee members, estimating their rewards and organizing and announcing the award ceremony. The Board shall also be responsible for supervising any cultural projects affiliated to the prize and preparing for any intellectual meetings or seminars on poetry.

Article Three: The Broad shall hold at least two annual meetings in any Arab country chosen by the Chairman of the Foundation's Board. The Chairman is entitled to convene the Board for an extraordinary meeting.

Article Four: Should any Board member abstain from attending three successive meetings - with no valid excuse - the Chairman may then name a member replacing them. The appointment of the new member must be approved by the Board.

Article Five: The Secretary General must submit the meeting's agenda to the Board members at least one week prior to convening the meeting. Each member may, in writing, suggest any subject to be reviewed and the Chairman is entitled to review any case he finds convenient.

Article Six: The Secretary General must notify the Board members of the Board's decisions and recommendations and provide them with the minutes of the meeting within two weeks of each convened Board meeting.

The Board members' approval shall be deemed in case no reservation by them was received within two weeks of their nomination.

The Secretary General - with the consent of the Chairman - may reduce the previous periods for reasons he may find adequate and choose the means he finds convenient to acquire the members' approval.

In all cases members shall receive the session minutes at least one week prior to convening the next meeting.

Article Seven: The Board of Trustees' decisions shall be passed through majority voting. Should the votes be tied, the Chairman's voice shall be preponderant.

Article Eight: The Board may form ad-hoc committees of its members to consider submitted subjects.

Article Nine*:* Due to certain circumstances, the Board may form a committee comprised of its members as well as others, to select some of those nominated for the awards. All the applicants shall then be reviewed together by the arbitration committees, in accordance with the stipulated terms and conditions.

Article Ten: The task of the Board's Secretary General shall implement the decisions and make preparations for its meetings. He may seek the assistance of those he chooses from his aids to carry out his tasks.

Article Eleven: Each member shall be granted a monthly remuneration. The Foundation shall bear the expenses of travel and accommodation of all the members not residing in the country where the meeting is being held. In addition, the Foundation shall grant the members the assigned attendance per diem.

Article Twelve: This bylaw shall be deemed detailing and complementary to the Articles of Association.

3. The Arbitration's Bylaws

The Board of Trustees' Chairman has promulgated the arbitration chart of the Foundation prizes as follows:

The Board of Trustees shall form an arbitration committee or committees of experienced and qualified persons in the field of poetry and its criticism, provided these people represent various Arab countries.

The arbitration committee sessions' shall be chaired by a Chairman chosen by the committee's members during the first meeting it holds. The committee, shall, during the same meeting, choose its rapporteur and adopt its rules of procedure.

The work of the committee shall start as of the first day after the closing date of applying for the prize contest and end upon the delivery of its report on the date specified by the Board of Trustees.

Each member shall submit a written report wherein they justify objectively their own opinions in deciding the winners of the prize.

The decisions of the arbitration committees shall be adopted by the majority. In case of tied votes, the Chairman's vote shall be preponderant.

If any member fails to attend due to an emergency, a sub-

mitted written report shall be sufficient, but they shall have no right to objection.

The names of the members of the arbitration committee shall be confidential. No member is entitled to announce their membership or the results of the arbitrations or the deliberations.

An arbitration committee member who himself, his kin or next of kin applies for the prize is compelled to resign from the committee.

Membership of the arbitration committee shall not be retained for more than three successive sessions.

The committee shall assess the works of the applicants for the prize in accordance with the terms and conditions stipulated in the Articles of Association and in the advertisement published in the press.

The committee shall forward its detailed report signed by its members to the Board of Trustees which shall then take its final decision.

This bylaw shall be deemed detailed and complementary to the Articles of Association.

The Organizational Structure

1. The Board of Trustees

The Foundation's Board of Trustees comprises of the Secretary General and at least nine other men of letters, thought and poetry in the Arab world, while trying to represent as many Arab countries as possible. The Board is re-formed every three years.

The First Board of Trustees:

The Foundation's first Board of Trustees for the years 1991-1994 was formed as follows:

1. Mr. Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain	Chairman
2. Mr. Abdulaziz Al-Surayea	Secretary General
3. Dr. Ibrahim Abdullah Ghloum	Member
4. Mr. Abulqasem Mohammed Kirru	Member
5. Dr. Suleiman Ali Al-Shatti	Member
6. Dr. Ali Al-Sayyed Al-Baz	Member
7. Dr. Ali Oqla Irsan	Member
8. Dr. Mohammed Zaki Al-Ashmawi	Member
9. Dr. Mohammed Mustafa Haddara	Member
10. Dr. Mahamoud Ali Makki	Member
11. Dr. Yousef Abdulqader Khulaif	Member

The second Board was formed in the year 1994, the third in 1998, and the fourth in 2001. The present Board, which is the fifth, was formed on December 2004. It comprises:

1. Mr. Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain	President
2. Mr. Abdulaziz Al-Surayea	Secretary General
3. Dr. Tahar Hadjar	Member
4. Dr. George Tarabeih	Member
5. Dr. Hatem Al-Sager	Member
6. Dr. Hasnaa Al-Qunaieer	Member
7. Dr. Abdullah Ahmed Al-Mohanna	Member
8. Dr. Abdullah Bin Nasser Al-Alawi	Member
9. Dr. Ali Oqla Irsan	Member
10. Mr. Farouq Shousha	Member
11. Dr. Kamal Imran	Member
12. Dr. Latifa Al-Najjar	Member
13. Dr. Mohammed Yousef Shaheen	Member
14. Mr. Abdulaziz Mohammed Juma	Secretary

Those who enjoyed membership in the Board for one or

more terms in the second, third, and fourth Boards are: Dr. Ibrahim Abdullah Ghloum, Dr. Ibrahim Al-Saafeen, Mr. Abulqasem Kirru, Dr. Jaber Asfour, Dr. Suleiman Ali Al-Shatti, Dr. Mahmoud Ali Makki, Dr. Mohammed Al-Sarghini, Dr. Mansour Al-Hazemi, Dr. Ali Fahm Khosheem, Dr. Mohammed Ibn Sharifa, Dr. Monif Mousa, Mr. Al-Tayyeb Saleh and Dr. Mohammed Abdulraheem Kafoud.

2. The General Secretariat

The General Secretariat is the Foundation's executive apparatus. It includes the executive secretariat, computer department, and the research department, which carries out research proof-reading, editing and following up on the publication process, as well as supervising administrative and financial affairs. The executive apparatus particularly undertakes all preparations pertaining to the meetings of the Board of Trustees, the advisory body of the «Al-Babtain Encyclopedia of Arab Poets in the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries», the encyclopedia editing office, the editing office of the «Al-Babtain Encyclopedia of Contemporary Arab Poets» in its successive editions, the arbitration committees, coordinating the literary works contesting for the prizes and reviewing the same, as far as formalities are concerned. It also directs work to the regional offices. The Secretary General shall be commissioned to represent the Foundation in many occasions and missions. In addition, the General Secretariat apparatus undertakes the implementation of the plans and policies drawn up by the Board of Trustees and follows up all the decisions passed by the Board.

The first Secretary General of the Foundation was poet Adnan Al-Shayji, who served from the beginning of the Foundation's establishment in 1989 until July 1991. He planned the arbitration and distribution of the first meeting in May, 1990 at the Marriot Hotel in Cairo. The General Secretariat had not been formed at that time, so the Foundation relied heavily on the Cairo based Modern Literature Association, chaired by the Late Dr. Mohammad Abdulmunem Khafaji. Thanks to its support, the Association has backed the Foundation's efforts in executing its functions from its beginnings.

In August 1991, Mr. Abdulaziz Al-Surayea was chosen to be the Secretary General of the Foundation. At the time, he was occupying the post of Head of Department of Culture and Arts at the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters. He resigned and assumed his responsibilities as full time Secretary General of the Foundation since October 1993.

3. The Foundation's Offices

Due to the diversity of the Foundation's work and the expansion of its activities all over the Arab world, offices were opened in some Arab countries, namely:

Cairo office: It covers the region of Egypt, Sudan and neighboring areas, assisted by delegates in these countries.

Tunisia office: Covers the North African area, assisted by delegates in these countries.

Kuwait office: It covers the Gulf and Arabian Peninsula region. It is run directly by the General Secretary as part of the general secretariat's work, assisted by the apparatus and delegates from the Arab Gulf countries, in addition to roving delegates from abroad, such as Asia, Europe, Australia, North and South America and Africa.

4. The Foundation's Delegates

In addition to its regional offices, the Foundation appointed a number of men of letters who are well informed about cultural and poetic affairs in their countries, in order to assist the Foundation in executing its project and meet its needs in their respective countries.

The Foundation's Achievements

The Sessions

The First Session: Cairo, 17 May, 1990

The prize distributing ceremony during the first meeting was held at the Marriott hotel in Cairo under the auspices of the Egyptian Minister of Culture, Mr. Farouq Hosni. The ceremony was attended by a large number of dignitaries who are interested in poetic, cultural and literary activities.

Initially, the value of the prize was EP 43,000 (Egyptian Pounds forty three thousand), it was then doubled during the ceremony to EP 86,000 (Egyptian Pounds eighty six thousand). The prizes were awarded as follows:-

1. The Poetic Creativity Prize, valued at EP 30,000 (Egyptian Pounds thirty thousand), was jointly won by the Kuwaiti poet Mohammed Al-Fayez for his complete poetic works and the Egyptian poet Ibrahim Eisa for his book of verse entitled: Habibi Aneed «My Darling is Stubborn».

2. The Poetry Criticism Creativity Prize, valued at EP 30,000 (Egyptian Pounds thirty thousand), was jointly won by the Egyptian critic Dr. Mohammed Zaki Al-Ashmawi for his book «Literary Criticism Issues» and the Egyptian critic Mr. Mustafa Abdullateef Al-Saharti for his book «The Contemporary Poetry in Light of Modern Criticism».

3. The Excellence in Poetry Prize, valued at EP 20,000 (Egyptian Pounds twenty thousand), was won jointly by the Iraqi poet Mohammed Jawad Al-Ghaban for his collection of poems: Inty Ahla «You are Prettier» and the Egyptian poet Khalil Fawaz for his collection of poems: Qalbi «My Heart».

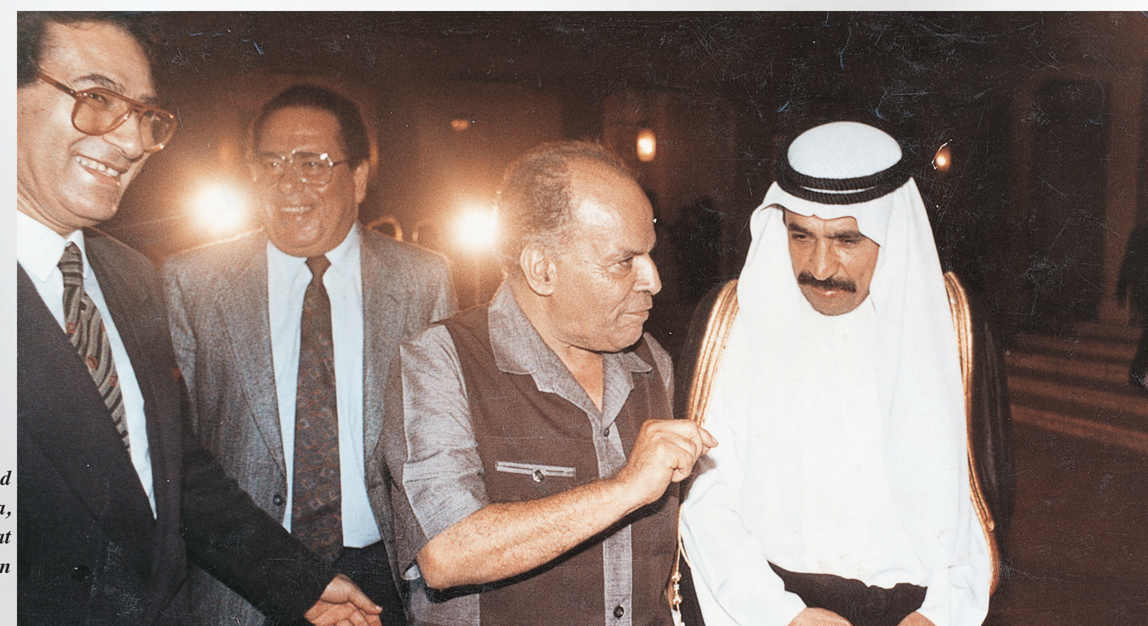
4. The Best Poem Prize, valued at EP 6,000 (Egyptian Pounds six thousand), was won jointly by the Egyptian poetess Olayya Al-Jaar for her poem «Do not Worry» and the Moroccan poet Mohammed Al-Halwi for his poem Fi Rihab Sibta «In the Vast Space of Ceuta».

We are the poets with whose tongues the hearts were coddled. When our genius is at its best, we produce words for which chests are stricken.

Baker Bin Al-Nattah



From right to left; Mr. Farouq Hosni - Egyptian Minister of Culture Mr. Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain awarding the prizes at the First Session.



From right to left; Mr. Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain, Mr. Abdul Sattar Al-Taweela, Dr.Sameer Sarhan, Mr. Farouq Hosni at the first session at the Marriott Hotel in Cairo, 1990.

The Second Session: Cairo, 17 October 1991

The prize awarding ceremony was held at the Opera House in Cairo under the auspices of the Egyptian Minister of Culture Mr. Farouq Hosni. A large number of poets, writers, critics, as well as press and media men attended the ceremony.

The prizes were awarded as follows:

1.The Poetic Creativity Prize, valued at EP 60,000 (Egyptian Pounds sixty thousand), was won by the Egyptian poet Abdulaleem Al-Qabbani for his complete poetic works.

2.The Poetry Criticism Prize, valued at EP 60,000 (Egyptian Pound sixty thousand), was won jointly by the Egyptian critics Dr. Mohammed Fattouh Ahmed and Dr. Mohammed Abdulmottaleb for their complete critical works.

3.Classical Poetry Excellence Prize, valued at EP 20,000 (Egyptian Pounds twenty thousand), was won jointly by the Egyptian poet Shawki Haikal for his book of verse «A Passage to Two Eyes» and the Egyptian poet Ismael Oqab for his collection «She and the Sea».

4.The Excellence in Free Rhyme Poetry Prize, valued at EP 20,000 (Egyptian Pounds twenty thousand), was won by the Syrian poet Hassan Attwan for his poetry collection «Blood Baptism».

5.The Best Poem Prize, valued at EP 20,000 (Egyptian Pounds twenty thousand), was won jointly by the Saudi poet Habib Bin Moalla Al-Motairi for his poem «With no Title» and the Egyptian poet Rabeh Lotfi Juma for his poem «Kuwait's Liberation».

- It is noteworthy, in this respect, that the value of the prize in the second session was more than doubled that of the first session. The value of the prizes totaled EP 180,000 (Egyptian Pounds one hundred and eighty thousand.)

Time is one of the reciters of my poetry,
Once I recite my poetry, time sings it.
It is carried with a defying spirit by one who could not walk before,
It makes a warbler of one who could not sing.

Al-Mutanabbi



Mr. Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain delivering the opening speech of the Second Session, Cairo, 17th October 1991.



The audience attending the Second Session at the Egyptian Opera House. From right to left; Mr. Mohammed Ghunaim Ahmed, Mr. Ahmed Qaddaf Addam, Mr. Mohammed Mejren, Mr. Farouq Hosni, Mr. Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain, Dr. Tariq Mohammed Ali, Mr. Ahmed Zaid Al-Sarhan, Mr. Abdulateef Saud Al-Babtain.

The Third Session: Mahmoud Sami Al-Baroudi - Cairo, 12-14 December, 1992

Before convening this session, the Board of Trustees considered a way to develop the work so that the ceremony was not restricted to awarding prizes. Therefore, the Board decided to dedicate each session to a great Arab poet in order to commemorate them and to launch an intellectual seminar about such poets. So, the Board decided to name the third session after the poet Mahmoud Sami Al-Baroudi, the pioneer of Arab poetry revival. The ceremony, in which the prizes were awarded, was held at the Opera House in Cairo, under the auspices of the Egyptian Minister of Culture Mr. Farouq Hosni. A large number of Arab poets and writers attended the ceremony. The prizes were awarded as follows:

1. Poetic Creativity Prize, valued at US$ 30,000 (US Dollars thirty thousand), was won by the Tunisian poet Mohyeddin Khuraif for his complete poetic works.

2. Poetry Criticism Prize, valued at US$ 20,000 (US Dollars twenty thousand), was won jointly by the Egyptian critics Raja Al-Nakkash and Dr. Maher Hassan Fahmi for their complete critical works.

3. The Best Poetry Diwan Prize, valued at US$ 10,000 (US Dollars ten thousand), was won by the Egyptian poet Dr. Hassan Fath Al-Bab for his diwan Ahdaq Al-Jiyad «Horses' Eyes».

4. The Best Poem Prize, valued US$ 5,000 (US Dollars five thousand» was won jointly by both the Egyptian poet Hassan Tawfiq for his poem «Sinbad and the New Voyage» and the Omani poet Seif Ibn Mohammed Al-Ramadhani for his poem Makhadh Al-Qaseeda «A Poem in Labor».

A three day seminar regarding thought was held on the sidelines of the prize awarding ceremony. The seminar was divided into two parts; the first tackled the works of the great poet Mahmoud Sami Al-Baroudi, whereas the second was devoted to research related to contemporary Arab poems, in addition to discussing issues about poetry and its criticism. A large number of poets, writers and critics participated.

Associate Seminar

The First Session
Chairperson: Dr. Suleiman Al-Shatti
Research Title: Al-Baroudi's Poetry between Heritage and Modernization
Researcher: Dr. Yousef Khulaif
Main Commentator: Dr. Ibrahim Abdulrahman Mohammed
Commentators: Mr. Khaled Al-Shayji, Dr. Maher Hassan Fahmi, Dr. Mansour Al-Hazemi, Dr. Naeem Al-Yafi, Dr. Mohammad Hassan Abdullah, Dr. Mohammed Hamed Al-Hudhairi, Mr. Mohammed Al-Tohami, Dr. Mohammed Mustafa Haddara and Dr. Hilal Al-Shayji

The Second Session
Chairperson: Dr. Mohammed Mustafa Haddarah
Research Title: Al-Baroudi's Contradictions in Light of Modern Critical Studies

Researcher: Dr. Mohammed Fattouh Ahmed
Main Commentator: Dr. Munif Mousa
Commentators: Dr. Saad Al-Bazei, Dr. Suleiman Al-Shatti, Dr. Abdulsalam Al-Misaddi, Dr. Abdullah Al-Ghathami, Dr. Hassan Fath Al-Bab, Dr. Maher Hassan Fahmi, Dr. Mohyeddin Sobhi, Dr. Naeem Al-Yafi, Dr. Mohyeddin Allathiqani and Dr. Hilal Al-Shaiji

The Third Session
Chairperson: Dr. Ibrahim Abdullah Ghloum
Research Title: Selections of Al-Baroudi
Researcher: Dr. Mahmoud Ali Makki
Main Commentator: Dr. Kamal Imran
Commentators: Dr. Hani Al-Amad, Dr. Mansour Al-Hazemi, Dr. Mohammed Mustafa Haddara, Dr. Naeem Al-Yafi, Dr. Maher Hassan Fahmi, Dr. Moheyeddin Allatheqani, Dr. Abdulsalam Al-Misaddi, Dr. Ibrahim Abdullah Ghloum and Dr. Ali Al-Baz

The Fourth Session
Chairperson: Dr. Abdulhadi Al-Tazi
Research Title: Al-Baroudi, Herald of the Sentimental Trend in Modern Arabic Poetry
Researcher: Dr. Abdulqader Al-Qitt
Main Commentator: Dr. Izzeddin Ismael
Commentators: Dr. Ahmed Al-Toraybeck Ahmed, Dr. Hammadi Sammoud, Dr. Saleh Al-Kharfi, Dr. Abdulsalam Al-Misaddi, Dr. Ali Shalash, Dr. Salma Al-Khadhra Al-Jayousi, Dr. Mohammed Fattouh Ahmed, Dr. Mojeb Al-Zahrani, Dr. Mohyeddin Sobhi, Dr. Maher Hassan Fahmi, Mr. Mohammed Al-Tuhami and Mr. Abdulaziz Al-Surayea

The Fifth Session
Chairperson: Dr. Mohammed Zaki Al-Ashmawi
Research Title: Development of the Content in Contemporary Arabic Poems
Researcher: Mr. Raja Al-Nakkash
Main Commentator: Dr. Mohyeddin Sobhi
Commentators: Dr. Helal Al-Shaiji, Dr. Mohyeddin Allathiqani, Dr. Mansour Al-Hazemi, Dr. Munif Mousa, Dr. Abdullah Al-Ghathami, Dr. Ahmed Darwish, Dr. Hassan Fath Al-Bab, Dr. Maher Hassan Fahmi and Dr. Mohammed Ibrahim

The Sixth Session
Chairperson: Mr. Abdulaziz Al-Surayea
Research Title: The Relation between the Contemporary Arab Poem and Other Arts
Researcher: Paul Shaoul
Main Commentator: Dr. Mojeb Al-Zahrani
Commentators: Dr. Ahmed Toraybeck, Mr. Abdulrazzak Al-Baseer, Dr. Suleiman Al-Shatti, Mr. Abulqasem Kirro, Dr. Hammadi Sammoud. Dr. Mohyeddin Sobhi, Mr. Mohammed Al-Tuhami, Dr. Salma Al-Khadhra Al-Jayyousi and Dr. Saed Al-Bazie

The Seventh Session

Chairperson: Dr. Jaber Asfour

Research Title: Linguistic Formation in the Modern Arabic Poem

Researcher: Dr. Abdullah Al-Ghathami

Main Commentator: Dr. Hammadi Sammoud

Commentators: Dr. Abdulsalam Al-Misaddi, Mr. Paul Shaoul, Dr. Ahmed Mukhtar Omar, Dr. Hilal Al-Shaiji, Dr. Mohyeddin Allatheqani, Dr. Mojeb Al-Zahrani, Dr. Naeem Al-Yafi, Dr. Mohammed Fattouh Ahmed, Dr. Ahmed Al-Toraybeck Dr. Ahmed Darwish and Dr. Jaber Asfour

The Eighth Session

Chairperson: Dr. Ali Al-Baz

Research Title: The “Image” in the Modern Arab Poem

Researcher: Dr. Naeem Al-Yafi

Main Commentator: Dr. Salma Al-Khadhra Al-Jayyousi

Commentators: Dr. Ahmed Al-Toraybeck, Dr. Abdulsalam Al-Misaddi, Dr. Jaber Asfour, Dr. Ahmed Darwish, Dr. Hassan Fath Al-Bab, Dr. Mohyeddin Sobhi, Dr. Mohammed Fattouh Ahmed, Dr. Mohyeddin Allatheqani and Mr. Abdulaziz Al-Surayea

Tis none but poetry enwrapped, moving ahead,
Out of the store it holds a diffused fragrance.
So hearken and listen to what it shall disclose;
Tis poetry itself, not what the dullard claims.
Its charm enhances when chanted, as if I have inspired it with magic,
of which it does not hold.

Mahmoud Sami Al-Baroudi



The 3rd Session - 12-14 December, 1992. Dr. Izzeddin Ismael, Dr. Abdulhadi Al-Tazi, Dr.Abdulqadir Al-Qitt.



The 3rd Session, Cairo, 1992 - Right to left: Dr. Ali Al-Baz, Mr. Sedqi Hattab, Mr. Abdulaziz Al-Surayea, Mr. Abdulkareem Al-Babtain, Mr. Abu Al-Qasim Kirru, Mr. Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain, Dr. Mohammed Mustafa Haddara, Dr. Ali Shalash, Mr. Paul Shaoul, Dr. Ali Ogla Irsan, Dr. Munif Mousa and Dr. Hani Al-Amad.

The Fourth Session: Abu Al-Qassem Al-Shabi – Fez / Morocco, 10-12 October, 1994

The Board of Trustees issued a decision stipulating that the prize shall be awarded during a ceremony held biannually to provide the committees and participating researchers with adequate time to prepare and write their researches and to issue publications about the selected poets of the meetings and their creative work. The Board of Trustees' decision also highlighted the importance of expanding the circle of important poets so that the chosen poet comes from a country different to that in which the ceremony is being held. As Al-Shabi comes from Tunisia, it was decided that the ceremony was to be held in Morocco in order to show the importance of the Arab Maghreb poets and their poetic prestige in the Arab world.

As Fez was the Moroccan cultural capital, it was chosen to host the ceremony, under the auspices of his Majesty the late King Hassan II and in the presence of his Majesty King Mohammed VI, who was then Crown Prince. The ceremony, organized by the Foundation in cooperation with «Fez Saiss» Moroccan Society, was attended by a large number of guests from various Arab countries, which exceeded two hundred poets, critics and personalities interested in Arabic culture.

The awards were distributed as follows:

1. Creativity Prize in Poetry, valued at US$ 40,000 (US Dollars forty thousand), was won by poetess Fadwa Touqan for her complete poetic works.

2. Creativity Prize in Poetry Criticism, valued at US$ 40,000 (US Dollars forty thousand), was won by the critic Professor Mustafa Nassef for his book «Voice of the Ancient Poet» and his overall critical works.

3. The Best Diwan Prize, valued at US$ 20,000 (US Dollars twenty thousand), was jointly won by the poet Ahmed Ghorab for his book of verse «Inscriptions on the Wall of Silence» and the Poet Khalid Mohyeddin Al-Baradie for his collection «Abdullah and the World».

4. The Best Poem Prize, valued at US$ 10,000 (US Dollars ten thousand), was suspended.

After the prize awarding ceremony, a two-part seminar was held. The first part discussed the works of «Abu Al-Qassem Al-Shabi», while the other was dedicated to research related to the Contemporary Arab poem.

It is important to note that the amount of the prize was raised from EP 180,000 (Egyptian Pounds one hundred and eighty thousands) to US$110,000 (US Dollars one hundred and ten thousand).

The Associate Seminar
Part One: Greetings to Al-Shabi

The First and Second Sessions

Chairperson: Mr. Abdulaziz Al-Surayea

Subject: The Influence of Al-Shabi: A Study in Tributaries of Al-Shaabi's Creative Experience

Research Title: Arab Tributaries of Al-Shaabi's Creative Experience
Researcher: Dr. Mohammed Al-Qadi
Research Title: Foreign Tributaries of Al-Shaabi's Creative Experience
Researcher: Dr. Mohammed Asfour – The research was distributed among participants but was not tabled for discussion due to the absence of the researcher.
Research Title: Poetism in the Poetry of Al-Shabi
Researcher: Dr. Mohammed Moftah
Research Title: Distinguished Phenomena in the Poetic Content of Al-Shaabi's Poetry
Researcher: Dr. Abdulsalam Al-Misaddi
Commentators: Dr. Izzeddin Ismael, Dr. Mohyeddin Sobhi, Mr. Al-Tayyeb Saleh, Dr. Ahmed Darwish, Dr. Ahmed Al-Toreisi Irab, Dr. Hammadi Sammoud, Mr. Khaldoun Al-Shama'a, Mr. Saeed Al-Sirihi, Dr. Kamal Imran, Dr. Ahmed Al-Toraybeck, Mr. Doreid Yahya Al-Khawaja, Dr. Mohammed Fattouh Ahmed, Dr. Yaseen Al-Ayoubi, Dr. Yousef Bakkar, Dr. Maher Hassan Fahmi, Dr. Soad Abdulwahhab, Dr. Alawi Al-Hashemi, Dr. Ali Jafar Al-Allag, Dr. Aziz Hussein and Dr. Mohammed Abdulraheem Kafoud

The Third Session
Chairperson: Dr. Abdulwahhab Al-Tazi
Subject: Al-Shabi as an Influential Poet: A Study of Al-Shaabi's Effect in the Arab Poetic Movement Process
Research Title: Al-Shaabi's Influence in the Arab Poetic Movement March: The Arab East
Researcher: Dr. Mohammed Hassan Abdullah
Research Title: Al-Shaabi's Influence in the Arab Poetic Movement March: The Arab West
Researcher: Dr. Ahmed Al-Toreisi Irab
Commentators: Dr. Mohyeddin Allathiqani, Dr. Mansour Al-Hazemi, Dr. Jaber Asfour, Dr. Kamal Imran, Dr. Mohsen Al-Mosawi, Dr. Mahmoud Makki, Dr. Maher Hassan Fahmi, Dr. Abdulqader Al-Qitt, Dr. Mohammed Fattouh Ahmed, Dr. Nasima Al-Ghaith, Dr. Izzat Khattab, Dr. Aziz Hussein, Dr. Saeed Yaqteen and Mr. Al-Tayeb Saleh

The Fourth Session
Chairperson: Dr. Jaber Asfour
Subject: Al-Shabi as a Prose Writer: Criticism of Al-Shabi
Research Title: His Criticism, Letters and Prefaces
Researcher: Dr. Saeed Al-Siraihi
Research Title: Evaluation of Criticism Written on Al-Shabi, as a Poet and Prose Writer
Researcher: Dr. Abdulmalek Mourtad
Commentators: Mr. Ahmed Abbas Saleh, Dr. Ahmed Mukhtar Omar, Dr. Mansour Al-Hazemi, Dr. Mohyeddin Sobhi, Dr. Mohammed Mustafa Haddara, Dr. Ahmed Al-Toraybeck Ahmed, Dr. Hammadi Sammoud, Mr. Khaldoun Al Shama, Dr. Mohammed Fattouh Ahmed, Dr. Mohsen Al-Mosawi, Dr. Ibrahim Al-Saafeen, Dr. Saeed Yaqteen. Dr. Maher Hassan Fahmi, Dr. Kamal Imran. Mr. Abdulfattah Abu Madian, Dr. Abdullah Hammadi and Dr. Aziz Hussein
Part Two: Contemporary Poetic Discourse

The Fifth Session

Chairperson: Dr. Ibrahim Abdullah Ghloum

Subject: The Poet in Question

Research Title: The Poet's Personality and Status in Contemporary Critical Evaluation

Researcher: Dr. Ahmed Darwish

Research Title: The Poet's Vision and Status in Contemporary Critical Evaluation

Researcher: Dr. Nadeem Naeema

Commentators: Dr. Abdulsalam Al-Misaddi, Dr. Abdullah Hammadi, Mr. Al-Tayyeb Saleh, Dr. Maher Hassan Fahmi, Dr. Mohyeddin Sobhi, Dr. Mohammed Lutfi Al-Yousufi, Dr. Mohyeddin Allathiqani, Dr. Mohammed Fattouh Ahmed, Dr. Mansour Al-Hazemi, Dr. Mohammed Abdulmuttaleb, Mr. Lakhadar Al-Saehi and Dr. Yaseen Al-Ayoubi

The Sixth and Seventh Sessions

Chairperson: Dr. Abdulqader Al-Qitt

First Subject: The Contemporary Poetic Discourse

Research Title: Tools of Contemporary Poetic Discourse: Rhythm, Language and Indications…etc.

Researcher: Dr. Mohammed Abdulmuttaleb

Research Title: Sources of Contemporary Poetic Discourse: Reality, History, Myth

Researcher: Dr. Mohammed Al-Hadi Al-Tarabulsi

Second Subject: The Recipient of Poetry

Research Title: The Recipient's Requirements in Contemporary Poetic Discourse

Researcher: Dr. Salah Fadhl

Research Title: The Impact of Contemporary Poetic Discourse on the Recipient

Researcher: Dr. Hussein Al-Wad

Commentators on the First Subject: Mr. Doreid Al-Khawaja, Dr. Abdulsalam Al-Misaddi, Dr. Abdullah Hammadi, Dr. Salam Abbas Khadada, Dr. Ali Jafar Al-Allag, Dr. Mohammed Fattouh Ahmed, Dr. Suleiman Al-Shatti

Commentators on the Second Subject: Dr. Mansour Al-Hazemi, Dr. Jaber Asfour, Mr. Al-Tayyeb Saleh, Dr. Izzat Khattab, Dr. Kamal Imran, Dr. Ibrahim Al Saafeen, Dr. Soad Abdulwahhab, Dr. Mohyeddin Sobhi, Dr. Mohammed Abdulraheem Kafoud, Dr. Mohammed Lutfi Al-Yousufi and Dr. Salam Abbas Khadada

Your poetry is a piece of my heart
being sung,
A part of my existence,
In your poetry there is an eternal
longing for the core existence.

Abu Al-Qassem Al-Shabi



Crown Prince Mohammed (now King) and Mr. Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain at the opening of the Fourth Session in Fez, 1994.



From right to left; Mr. Sa'eed Al-Siraihi, Dr. Jaber Asfor and Dr. Abdulmalek Murtadh at the 4th Session in Fez, 10-12 October, 1994.

The Fifth Session: Ahmed Mishari Al-Adwani - Abu Dhabi, 28-31 October, 1996

This meeting was named after the prominent Kuwaiti poet Ahmed Mishari Al-Adwani and the capital of the United Arab Emirates, Abu Dhabi was chosen as the host for this ceremonial event, with which the U.A.E. Cultural Society contributed a great deal. The prize awarding ceremony was under the auspices of His Highness Sheikh Zayed ben Sultan Al-Nahyan, President of the U.A.E. A large number of poets, writers and critics from different Arab countries attended the event.

The prizes, in this meeting, were awarded as follows:

1. The Poetic Creativity Prize, valued at of US$ 40,000 (US Dollars forty thousand), was awarded to the Iraqi poetess Nazek Al-Malaeki for her complete poetic works.

2. The Poetry Criticism Prize, valued at of US$ 40,000 (US Dollars forty thousand), was awarded to the Egyptian critic Dr. Salah Fadhel for his complete critical works.

3. The Best Divan Prize, valued at US$ 20,000 (US Dollars twenty thousand), was suspended.

4. The Best Poem Prize, valued at of US$ 10,000 (US Dollars ten thousand), was awarded to the Egyptian poet Mohammed Al-Shahawi for his poem «The Exceptional Woman».

A three-topic seminar took place in this meeting. The first topic was devoted to Al-Adwani's Poetry; the second on criticism, change and experimentation in the poetry of the Gulf region the Arab Peninsula; and the third was on the Arab contemporary poem as a reference.

The Associate Seminar

The First Session

Chairperson: Abdulaziz Al-Surayea
First Research: The Content Structure in Al-Adwani's Poetry
Researcher: Dr. Abdullah Al-Mohanna
Second Research: The Structural Form of Al-Adwani's Poetry
Researcher: Dr. Morsel Faleh Al-Ajmi
Commentators: Dr. Mohyeddin Sobhi, Dr. Abdulsalam Al-Misaddi, Dr. Ahmed Abu Zaid, Dr. Haya Al-Dirham, Dr. Izzeddin Ismael, Dr. Ahmed Shirak, Dr. Mahmoud Ali Makki, Dr. Abdullah Al-Ghathami, Dr. Ahmed Mukhtar Omar, Dr. Mohammed Fattouh Ahmed, Dr. Abdullah Abu Heif, Mr. Ahmed Al-Manaie, Dr. Naeem Al-Yafi, Dr. Soad Abdulwahhab, Dr. George Tarabeih and Dr. Mansour Al-Hazemi

The Second Session

Chairperson: Dr. Dalal Al-Zaben
Third Research: A Critic's Testimony
Researcher: Dr. Jaber Asfour
Fourth Research: A Poet's Testimony
Researcher: Mr. Farouq Shousha

Commentators: Dr. Ahmed Abu Zaid, Mr. Fares Al-Hamed, Dr. Ahmed Shirak, Dr. Mahmoud Fahmi Hijazi

The Third Session

Chairperson: Dr. Ibrahim Abdullah Ghloum
Fifth Research: A Study in the Poetry of Khaled Al-Faraj, Abdullah Al-Khalili, Mohammed Mahmoud Al-Zubairi and Abdulrahman Al-Maawdeh
Researcher: Dr. Mohammed Hassan Abdullah
Sixth Research: A Study of Ibrahim Al-Urayyedh and Mohammed Hassan Awwad's Poetry
Researcher: Abdullah Al-Muaiqel
Commentators: Dr. Mohammed Mustafa Haddara, Dr. Haris Silajdžić, Dr. Nasima Al-Ghaith, Dr. Mohsen Jassem Al-Mosawi, Dr. Othman Badri, Dr. Fawzi Eisa, Dr. George Tarabeih, Dr. Khalifa Al-Wugayyan, Dr. Ahmed Al-Toraybeck, Mr. Mohammed Naji Al-Amyreh, Dr. Hammadi Sammoud, Dr. Haya Al-Dirham, Mr. Mubarak Al-Khater, Dr. Mansour Al-Hazemi, Dr. Fayez Al-Daya and Dr. Hassan Fath Al-Bab

The Fourth Session

Chairperson: Dr. Mansour Al-Hazemi
Seventh Research: A Study of Ahmed Saleh Al-Saleh, Khalifah Al-Wuqayyan and Saif Al-Rahbi's Poetry
Researcher: Dr. Alawi Al-Hashemi
Eighth Research: A Study of Qassem Haddad, Aref Al-Khaja and Mohammed Al-Thobaiti's Poetry
Researcher: Dr. Munif Mousa
Ninth Research: A Study of Qassem Haddad, Aref Al-Khaja and Mohammed Al-Thobaiti's Poetry
Researcher: Dr. Mojeb Al-Zahrani
Commentators: Dr. Jaber Asfour, Dr. Mansour Al-Hazemi, Dr. Yaseen Al-Ayoubi, Dr. Abdullah Al-Ghathami, Dr. Hammadi Sammoud, Dr. Naeem Al-Yafi, Dr. Salah Fadhl, Mr. Abdulaziz Al-Surayea, Dr. Ahmed Mukhtar Omar, Dr. Mohyeddin Sobhi, Dr. Mohammed Al-Hadlaq, Mrs. Malika Al-Asemi, Mr. Salah Ibn Omar, Dr. Mohammed Zaki Al-Ashmawi, Dr. Salem Abbas Khadada, Dr. Ahmed Shirak and Dr. Mohammed Fattouh Ahmed

The Fifth Session

Chairperson: Dr. Khalifa Al-Wuqayyan
Tenth Research: Reference to Contemporary Arab Poems in the Arab East
Researcher: Dr. Fayez Al-Daya
Eleventh Research: Reference to Contemporary Arab Poems in Egypt and Sudan
Researcher: Dr. Ali Ashri Zayed
Commentators: Dr. Mohammed Fattouh Ahmed, Dr. Hani Al-Amad, Dr. Abdulsalam Al-Misaddi, Dr. Ali Oqla Irsan, Dr. Mohsen Al-Mosawi, Dr. Hassan Fateh Al-Bab, Dr. Naeem Al-Yafi, Dr. Mahmoud Fahmi Hijazi and Dr. Mohammed Lotfi Al-Yousefi

The Sixth Session

Chairperson: Dr. Suleiman Al-Shatti
Twelfth Research: Reference to Contemporary Arab Poems in North Africa and the Arab West

Researcher: Dr. Mohammed Lotfi Al-Yousefi

Thirteenth Research: Reference to Contemporary Arab Poems in the Gulf and the Arabian Peninsula

Researcher: Dr. Saad Al-Bazeie

Commentators: Dr. Mahmoud Makki, Dr. Mohyeddin Sobhi, Dr. Mojeb Al-Zahrani, Dr. Migan Al-Rowaily, Dr. Ahmed Shirak, Dr. Mohammed Al-Hadlaq, Dr. Mohammed Al-Hadi Al Tarabulsi, Dr. Soad Al-Manei, Dr. Mohammed Fattouh Ahmed, Dr. Ahmed Al-Toraybeck Ahmed, Dr. Ibrahim Al-Safeen, Dr. George Tarabieh. Dr. Nouriddeen Sammoud, Dr. Hammadi Sammoud, Dr. Abdullah Al-Ghathami, Dr. Izzeddin Ismael, Dr. Fawzi Eisa, Dr. Morsel Al-Ajmi, Dr. Salah Fadhl, Mrs. Malika Al-Asemi, Dr. Salah Niazi, Dr. Abdulsalam Al-Misdadi, Mr. Mohammed Abdullah wild Omar and Mr. Abdulaziz Al-Surayea

Kuwait, my homeland, may the guiding light
protect you and by the warmth of praise be graced.
We are the same, the grandchild like his sire,
None have gone astray from grandparents' ways.

Ahmad Mishari Al-Adwani



The Opening Ceremony of the 5th Session - Ahmad Mishari Al-Adwani Session in Abu Dhabi, 1996.



Dr. Dalal Al-Zabin, the widow of Ahmad Mishari Al-Adwani, delivering her speech in Abu Dhabi, 1996.

The Sixth Session: Al-Akhtal Al-Saghir - Beirut, 14-17 October, 1998

This meeting was held in Beirut under the auspices of the late Prime Minister Rafiq Al-Hariri. It hosted a large number of poets, writers, critics and others interested in the poetic movement from the Arab world.

The prizes were awarded as follows:

1. The Poetic Creativity Prize, valued at US$ 40,000 (US Dollars forty thousand), was awarded to the Palestinian poet Sameeh Al-Qasem for his complete poetic works.

2. The Poetry Criticism Prize, valued at US$ 40,000 (US Dollars forty thousand), was awarded to the Moroccan critic Dr. Idris Balmaleeh for his complete critical works.

3. The Best Divan Prize, valued at US$ 40,000 (US Dollars forty thousand), was suspended, so the Chairman of the Board of Trustees Mr. Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain decided to award the prize in its full value to two poets instead of one. The prize was awarded equally between the Syrian poet Shawki Baghdadi for his divan «Something Belonging to the Soul» and the Jordanian poet Mohammed Al-Qaisi for his divan «A Flue on Our Days».

4. The Best Poem Prize, valued at US$ 10,000 (US Dollars ten thousand), was awarded to the Saudi poet Jassem Al-Suhayyeh for his poem «Antara in Captivity».

Literary seminar sessions were held simultaneously with the ceremony. The seminar was held in Bortemilio Hotel in Al-Kasleek between 14 and 17/10/1998. Eight researches and one lecture were delivered, commented on and discussed. The seminar's program included three evening poetry recitals and two musical performances.

The Associate Seminar

The First Session

Chairperson: Mr. Abdulaziz Al-Surayea
Research Title: The Poetic Discourse of Al-Akhtal Al-Saghir
Researcher: Dr. Aminah Fares Ghosun
Research Title: The Language of the Poetic Discourse of Al-Akhtal Al-Saghir
Researcher: Dr. Ahmed Kaddour
Commentators: Dr. Mohammed Bin Morees Al-Harithi, Dr. Fawzi Eisa, Dr. Mahmoud Makki, Dr. Idris Balmaleeh, Dr. Omar Al-Marrakeshi, Dr. Mohammed Zaki Al-Ashmawi, Dr. Siham Al-Foraih, Dr. Abdulaziz Hammouda, Dr. Soad Abdulwahhab, Dr Nasima Al-Ghaith, Dr. Nasseriddin Al-Asad, Dr. Ahmed Al-Toraybeck, Dr. Mohammed Al-Dannai, Dr. Hassan Al-Amrani, Mr. Yasin Al-Nusayr and Dr. Al-Tohami Al-Abdouli

The Second Session

Chairperson: Dr. Abdulsalam Misaddi
Research Title: Nature and the Suppressed Desires in Al-Akhtal Al-Saghir Poetry
Researcher: Dr. Khristo Najem
Research Title: The Romantic Poem in the Greater Syrian Region between the Two Wars
Researcher: Dr Yaseen Al-Ayoubi
Commentators: Dr. Idris Balmaleeh, Dr. Mohyeddin Sobhi, Mrs. Fatima Al-Ali, Mr. Khalid Al-Shaiji, Dr. Iqbal Al-Gharaballi,

Dr. Mubarak Rabie, Dr. Mohammed Al-Dannai, Dr. Al-Sayyed Abu Deib, Mr. Mamdouh Adwan, Dr. Nasima Al-Ghaith, Dr. Soad Abdulwahhab, Dr. Mohammed Qub'a and Dr. Abdulqader Faidouh

The Third Session

Chairperson: Mr. Sidqi Hattab
Research Title: The National Poem in the Greater Syrian Region between the Two Wars
Researcher: Dr. Mohyeddin Sobhi
Research Title: Reading the Free Poem
Researcher: Dr. Abdullah Al-Ghathami
Commentators: Dr. Mohammed Abu Shawareb, Dr. Al-Tohami Al-Abdouli, Dr. Abdulqader Al-Qitt, Dr. Mohyeddin Saber, Dr. Ahmed Mukhtar Omar, Dr. Idris Balmaleeh, Dr. Rita Awwadh, Dr. Kamal Imran, Dr. Siham Al-Foraih, Dr. Abdullah Sola, Dr. Abdulqader Faidouh, Dr. Fawzi Eisa and Dr. Ahmed Matouq

The Fourth Session

Chairperson: Dr. Ali Oqla Irsan
Research Title: Reading the Romantic Poem
Researcher: Dr. Salam Abbas Khadada
Research Title: Reading the Classical Poem
Researcher: Dr. Idris Balmaleeh
Commentators: Dr. Hassan Al-Amrani, Dr. Mohyeddin Sobhi, Dr. Tawfiq Al-Feel, Dr. Abdullah Sola, Dr. Ahmed Shirak, Dr. Mohammed Fattouh Ahmed, Dr. Mohammed Al-Dannai, Dr. Sad Al-Bazei, Dr. Mohammed Qub'a, Dr. Noora Al-Shamlan, Dr. Haya Al-Dirham and Dr. Naeem Al-Yafi

The Lecture

A special paper was presented by researcher Mubarak Al-Khater who summarized it during a lecture on the sidelines of the seminar.

Chairperson: Mr. Abdulaziz Al-Surayea
Title of Lecture: An Introduction to the Early Cultural, Educational and Literary Relations between the Greater Syrian Countries and the Arabian Gulf from 1900 through 1950
Lecturer: Mr. Mubarak Al-Khater
Associate Lecturer: Mubarak Al-Ammari
«A brief discussion about Al-Akhtal Al-Saghir and singing in the Arabian Gulf»
Commentators: Mrs. Fatima Al-Ali, Mr. Mohammed Ali Farhat, Dr. Mohammed Bin Morees Al-Harethi, Dr. Mansour Al-Hazemi and Dr. Khalifa Al-Wuqayyan

Once I woke to find my sun and moon missing,
Who could then sing upon a lute that has no chords?
Why do the rhymes shy away when I approach them?
They nurtured me in youth and failed me in old age.
As if my tears and blood could not appease their thirst,
Nor were they fed by nights of pain and sleeplessness.

Bishara Al-Khouri
(Al-Akhtal Al-Saghir)



Mr Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain delivering his speech at the opening of the 6th Session in Beirut, 14 Oct 1998.



From right to left; Mohammed Al-Mutwa, Bahraini Minister of Culture and Information; Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain, President of the Board of Trustees; the late Prime Minister of Lebanon, Mr. Rafiq Al-Hariri, under whose auspices the ceremony was held; Fawzi Hobeish, Minister of Culture in Lebanon; Yousuf Al-Sumait, Minister of Information in Kuwait; Ghazi Salaheddeen, Minister of Culture in Sudan; Rifki Bamakhrama, Minister of Culture in Djibouti; Abdulla Azmani, former Moroccan Minister of Culture and Mrs Baheya Al-Hariri.

The Seventh Session: Abu Firas Al-Hamdani
Algeria, 31 Oct - 3 Nov, 2000

This meeting was hosted in the Algerian capital, Algiers to celebrate the two Princes of Poetry; Abu Firas Al-Hamdani or Abu Firas Al-Jamadoma and Abdulqader Al-Jazaeri under the patronage of His Excellency President Abdulaziz Bouteflika, in cooperation and coordination with the Algerian Ministry of Communications and Culture and the Writers' Union. In attendance were a large number of poets, writers and dignitaries interested in the poetic movement of various Arab countries.

The prizes were awarded as follows:

1. The Honorary Prize for Creativity in Poetry, valued at. US$ 50,000 (US Dollars fifty thousand), was awarded to the Syrian poet Suleiman Al-Eisa for his complete poetic works.
2. The Poetry Criticism Prize, valued at US$ 40,000 (US Dollars forty thousand), was awarded to Dr. Mabrouk Al-Manaa from Tunisia for his divan «Poetry and Money».
3. The Best Divan Prize, valued at US$ 20,000 (US Dollars twenty thousand), was won by the poet Dr. Abdullateef Abdulhaleem from Egypt for his collection «The Blossom of Fire».
4. The Best Poem Prize, valued at US$ 10,000 (US Dollars ten thousand), was won by the poet Mohammed Awwad Al-Thobaiti for his poem «The Sand Attitude…The Alliteration Attitude».

A literary seminar was held during the meeting at the Al-Orassy Hotel from 31/10 until 3/11/2000. It comprised of two parts; part one dealt with the poetry of Abu Firas Al-Hamdani and his age; and part two dealt with the poetry of Abdulqader Al-Jazaeri and his age. The meeting's program included a morning poetic session, three evening poetry recitals and a joint Algerian-Kuwaiti musical performance.

The Associate Seminar

The First Session

Chairperson: Dr. Abdullah Al-Mohanna
First Subject: Reviewing the Book «Abu Firas Al-Hamdani's Age»
Author: Dr. Yousef Bakkar
Second Subject: The Poem in Abu Firas Al-Hamdani's Age
Researcher: Dr. Abdullah Al-Tatawi (Not in attendance)
Main Commentator: Dr. Saleh Al-Ghamidi
Third Subject: Reconciliation of Opposing Objectives and Concepts in the Poetry of Abu Firas Al-Hamdani
Researcher: Sheikh Mohammed Ali Taskhiri
Commentators: Dr. Mohammed Fattouh, Dr. Wahb Roumeya, Dr. Othman Badri, Dr. Abdullah Radwan, Dr. Jamil Alloush, Dr. George Tarebieh, Dr. Mohammed Radwan Al-Daya, Dr. Abdullah Hammadi, Dr. Mohammed Abu Shawareb, Dr. Ahmed Darwish, Dr. Abdulkareem Al-Sharif, Mr. Razzak Mahmoud Al-Hakeem, Dr. Ali Oqla Irsan, Dr. Mohyeddin Sobhi and Mr. Abdulaziz Al-Surayea

The Second Session

Chairperson: Dr. Mohammed Bashir Buwijra
Fourth Subject: Semantic Circles in Abu Firas Al-Hamdani's Diwan

Researcher: Dr. Fayez Al-Daya
Main Commentator: Dr. Mohammed Al-Qadi
Fifth Subject: The Artistic Image in Abu Firas Al-Hamdani's Poem
Researcher: Dr. Ali Ashri Zayed
Main Commentator: Dr. Ahmed Haidoush
Sixth Subject: Reviewing the Book «In the Company of the Two Princes»
Author: Dr. Ahmed Darwish
Commentators: Dr. Salah Niyazi, Dr. Wahb Roumeya, Dr. Yousef Bakkar, Dr. Ahmed Saleem Al-Homsi, Dr. Abdulkareem Al-Sharif, Dr. Ali Al-Baz, Dr. Turki Rabeh, Dr. Mohammed Qasem, Dr. Mohammed Fattouh Ahmed, Dr. Haya Al-Dirham, Dr. Yasseen Al-Ayoubi, Dr. Mohammed Shaheen, Dr. Mohammed Hamasa Abdullateef, Princess Badeea Al-Hasani Al-Jazaeri, Mr. Khaled Al-Roweishan and Dr. Othman Badri

The Third Session

Chairperson: Mr. Al-Tayeb Saleh
Seventh Subject: Reviewing the Book: «The Age of the Prince Abdulqader»
Author: Nassereddin Saeedouni
Eighth Subject: The Poem in the Age of Prince Abdulqader
Researcher: Dr. Noureddin Al-Sadd
Main Commentator: Dr. Ibrahim Al-Saafeen
Commentators: Dr. Mohammed Fattouh Ahmed, Princess Badeea Al-Hasani Al-Jazaeri, Dr. Abu Omran Al-Sheikh, Dr. Mohammed Abdulhai, Dr. Yousef Bakkar, Dr. Ali Abu Zaid, Dr. Yaseen Al-Ayoubi, Dr. Saleh Al-Ghamedi, Mr. Abdulaziz Al Surayea, Dr. Abdulqader Al-Hindi, Dr. Mohammed Abu Shawareb, Dr. Mohammed Radwan Al-Daya, Dr. Abdullah Hammadi, Dr. Mahmoud Ali Makki, Dr. Basheer Boyjera, Dr. Rabie Bin Salama, Dr. Othman Badri and Mr. Khaled Al-Shaiji

The Fourth Session

Chairperson: Dr. Mohammed Shaheen
Ninth Subject: The Language and Image in the Poetry of Prince Abdulqader
Researcher: Dr. Wahb Roumeya
Main Commentator: Dr. Salam Abbas Khadad
Tenth Subject: Reviewing the Book «Prince Abdulqader Al-Jazaeri as a Man of Letters»
Author: Abdulrazzaq Ibn Al-Sabi
Commentators: Dr. Abdullah Al-Mohanna, Dr. Mohyeddin Sobhi, Dr. Khaldoun Al-Naqeeb, Dr. Jameel Alloush, Dr. Basheer Boyjera, Dr. Fayez Al-Daya, Dr. Abdullah Hammadi, Dr. Mohammed Hamasa Abdullateef, Dr. Haya Al-Dirham, Dr. Mohammed Radwan Al-Daya, Dr. Mohammed Fattouh Ahmed, General Abdulrahman Swar Al-Dahab and Mr. Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain

Poetry is the Arabs' meeting place,
And literature is their address.

Abu Firas Al-Hamdani



From right to left; Mr. Abdulaziz Al-Surayea, Dr. Mohyeddin Amimour, H.E. President Abdulaziz Butafliqa and Mr. Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain. During the opening of the 7th meeting in Algiers.



A group photo of the winners at the 7th meeting. From right to left; Dr. Mohyed-deen Amimour, the Algerian Minister of Culture; Dr. Abdulatif Abdulhaleem, Mr. Mohammed Al-Thabiti, H.E. the Algerian President Abdulaziz Butafliqa, Mr. Ab-dulaziz Saud Al-Babtain, Mr. Suleiman Al- Eisa, Mr. Izzeddin Maihoubi and Dr. Mabrook Al-Manaei.

The Eighth Session: Ali Bin Al-Moqarrab Al-Ayouni

Manama / Bahrain, 1-3 October, 2002

This Session named after the poet «Ali Bin Al-Moqarrab Al-Ayouni», who never acquired his entitled appreciation. He was not under the spot lights of the large capitals as he lived in the eastern area of the Arab peninsula in a tumultuous period, which did not receive its due concern.

Poet «Ibrahim Touqan» was chosen as an alternative poet in this session because he expressed the meaning of the Palestinian wounds, the outcry of martyrdom to the ears of the Arab peoples and made poetry a substitute for the rifle. His choice came as a reiteration of the Arab integration with the Palestinian Revolution, which is fighting its fiercest battles.

The Foundation decided to convene this session in the Kingdom of Bahrain as it witnessed a new era of openness and democracy under the rule of His Majesty King Hamad Bin Eisa Al-Khalifa. It was under his Majesty's patronage that the ceremony was inaugurated with the attendance of a large number of poets, critics and cultured personalities from different Arab countries.

The prizes were awarded during this session as follows:

1. The Poetic Creativity Prize, valued at US$ 50,000 (US Dollars forty thousand), was awarded to the renowned Bahraini poet Mr. Ibrahim Abdulhussein Al-Urayyid for his distinctive poetic contributions. His son, Dr. Abduljalil Al-Urayyid, received the prize.
2. The Poetry Criticism Prize, valued at US$ 40,000 (US Dollars forty thousand), was awarded to the Iraqi critic Dr. Abdulwahid Lulua for his critical works that revealed the importance of acculturization in enriching contemporary Arab poetry, specifically his work titled «The Waste Land, the Poet and the Poem».
3. The Best Divan Prize, valued at US$ 20,000 (US Dollars twenty thousand), was awarded to the Algerian poet Dr. Abdullah Hammadi for his collection entitled «The Isthmus and the Knife».
4. The Best Poem Prize, valued at US$ 10,000 (US Dollars ten thousand), was awarded to the Egyptian poet Ahmed Bekheet for his poem «Good Bye Desert».

A literary seminar was held during the meeting comprised of two parts: part one was about Ibn Al-Moqarrab Al-Ayouni and his age; and part two was on the life and poetry of Ibrahim Touqan. The meeting also included evening poetry recitals.

The meeting also held a special session honor the Foundation's Secretary General, Mr. Abdulaziz Al-Surayea, which went as follows:

The First Session

Chairperson: Professor Nasereddin Al-Asad
First Subject: Ibn Al-Moqarrab; Between Effect and Affected
Researcher: Dr. Ali Al- Khodairi
Commentator: Dr. Soad Al-Manae
Second Subject: Language, Semantics and Rhythm in Ibn Al-

Moqarrab Poetry
Researcher: Dr. Ahmed Kaddour
Commentator: Dr. Salam Abbas Khadada
Other Commentators: Mr. Farouq Shousha, Dr. Omar Al-Marrakeshi, Dr. Al-Arabi Dehou, Mr. Mohammed Al-Jilwah, Dr. Mohammed Mustafa Abu Shawareb, Mr. Ali Al-Shalah, Dr. Sultan Saad Al-Qahtani, Dr. Mohammed Radwan Al-Daya, Dr. Ahmed Mukhtar Omar, Dr. Soad Abdulwahhab and Dr. Amina Fares Ghosun

The Second Session

Chairperson: Sheikha Mai Mohammed Al-Khalifa
Third Subject: Poets in the Eastern Arab Peninsula after Ibn Al-Moqarrab
Researcher: Dr. Sultan Saad Al-Qahtani
Commentator: Dr. Ahlam Al-Zaim
Fourth Subject: The Structure of Subjects in Ibn Al-Moqarrab Poetry
Researcher: Dr. Nasima Al-Gaith
Commentator: Dr. Abdullah Al-Mohanna
Other Commentators: Dr. Mohammed Abdulhai, Dr. Yaseen Al-Ayoubi, Dr. Al-Arabi Dehou, Dr. Soad Abdulwahhab
Special Session: Honoring the Secretary General
Chairperson: Dr. Ali Oqla Irsan
Testimony and Experience: Mr. Abdulaziz Al-Surayea
Commentators: Mr. Abdulaziz Al-Babtain, Dr. Ali Oqla Irsan, Sheikh Mohammed Saeed Al-Nomani, Mr. Mohammed Al-Arabi weld Khalifa, Mr. Abdullah Khalaf, Mr. Siddiq Al-Mojtaba, Mr. Sidi weld Al-Amjad, Mr. Mohammed Al-Jilwah, Mr. Mahmoud Al-Harshani, Mr. Abdulaziz Al-Surayea and Dr. Ahmed Darwish

The Third Session

Chairperson: Mr. Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain
Fifth Subject: The Struggling Poem of Ibrahim Touqan
Researcher: Dr. Faisal Darraj
Commentator: Dr. Mohammed Al-Dannai
Sixth Subject: Intifada Poetry: Al-Durah Diwan; as a Model
Researcher: Dr. Wahb Roumeya
Commentator: Dr. Abdulrazzaq Hussein
Other Commentators: Dr. Mohammed Fattouh Ahmed, Dr. Ahmed Mukhtar Omar, Dr. Shukri Aziz Al-Madhi, Dr. Mohammed Tarshona, Dr. Abdullah Hammadi, Dr. Mohammed Radwan Al-Daya, Dr. Ahmed Al-Toraybeck Ahmed, Dr. George Tarabieh, Dr. Mohammed Yousef Mustafa Al-Watheq, Dr. Ahlam Al-Zaim, Dr. Yaseen Al-Ayoubi, Dr. Mohammed Al-Hassan weld Mohammed Al-Mustafa and Dr. Hussein Manasrah

What worth is he who is not sought in time of need,
When times are hard, never sought to give a helping hand?
The great man is a golden coin, verse or jewel,
To rub the coin; the poet then reveals his worth.

Ali Bin Al-Muqarrab Al-Ayouni



A collective photo of the winners at Ali Bin Al-Muqarrab Al-Ayouni. From right to left; Crown Prince of Bahrain His Highness Salman bin Hamad Al-Khalifa; the Foundation's Chairman Mr. Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain and the Bahraini Minister of Information Mr. Nabil Al-Hamar.



The Foundation's Chairman Mr. Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain with a number of guests during a ceremony celebrating the 10th anniverasry of Al-Surayea assuming the post of the Secretary General.

The Ninth Session: Ibn Zaydoun Cordoba / Spain, 4-8 October, 2004

The Board of Trustees of the Foundation of Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain's Prize for Poetic Creativity approved naming this meeting after the great Andalusia poet Ahmed Ibn Zaydoun and decided to hold it in Cordoba, Spain between the 4th and 8th of October, 2004. This was the first time the Foundation held a meeting outside the Arab world and it was aimed at clarifying the true civilization, intellectual and cultural Arab and Muslim image after some opposing parties portrayed a distorted image of them in the wake of the September 2001 attacks. Choosing Cordoba as a host stemmed from the long historical relations between the Arabs and Spain and Portugal (the Iberian Peninsula). All the meeting's activities were carried out under the auspices of his Majesty King Juan Carlos and his eldest daughter Princess Elena, who attended the opening ceremony.

The Foundation had invited more than four hundred opinionated leaders, ministers, officials, specialized professors, critics, poets, intellectuals and media men belonging to different religions from the Arab world, Europe and America.

On Monday, the 4th of October, 2004, the Foundation organized a tour of the city of Cordoba for its guests.

The Grand Opening Ceremony

The ceremony was held at the University of Cordoba's Housing Auditorium.

Her Royal Highness Princess Elena, the eldest daughter of his Majesty King Juan Carlos, arrived at the site at 19:30, representing her father in the opening ceremony. The ceremony started with a speech delivered by Cordoba Mayor Rosa Aguilar Ribero, who thanked the Foundation for choosing Cordoba as a venue for this great ceremony. The President of the University of Cordoba, Dr. Eugenio Dominguez Vilches, then delivered a speech in which he congratulated the Foundation for this important event. He extended his thanks to the Foundation for its confidence in the University of Cordoba and expressed the University's readiness for cooperation with the Arab countries in the fields of education, research as well as all cultural activities and initiatives that encourage conducting dialogue and rapprochement for the sake of peace and progress. The Governor of Farwaniya, Sheikh Ibrahim Al-Duaij, attended the opening ceremony and participated in the cultural seminar. The Kuwaiti Ambassador to Spain, His Excellency Sheikh Salem Al-Jaber Al-Ahmed Al-Sabah also attended the opening ceremony.

The Foundation Chairman's Speech

The Foundation's patron, Chairman of the Board of Trustees Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain, then delivered a speech in which he expressed his gratitude to His Majesty King of Spain Juan Carlos for his generous patronage of the Ibn Zaydoun Session. He also extended his thanks to Her Highness Princess Elena for attending the opening ceremony, the great Spanish people and the Spanish government for their fruitful cooperation. He paid tribute to the renowned University of Cordoba, which hosted the meeting and highlighted the importance of coexistence which was embodied in Andalusia for many centu-

ries. Following is an excerpt from his speech; “We, at the Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain’s Foundation, which is an institution of the civil society, had an inspiration - ever since we started fifteen years ago- to get liberated from the political and sectarian partialities that disintegrate the social structure. We also wanted to make our Foundation an arena for Arab intellectuals of various orientations, to exchange opinions with the aim of promoting Arabic poetry and culture. We could overpass the separating walls and establish cultural cohesion as a base for political cohesion in the future.

“We were not satisfied with working within the Arab frame only and we looked to extending bridges with other cultures with which we had spun the threads of the past. It was in this context that we organized the Saadi Al-Shirazi Session in Tehran in 2000, in order to renew relations with the Persian culture. Now we have chosen Cordoba, the capital of Andalusia, as a venue for the Ibn Zaydoun meeting, in order to restore relations with the Spanish culture as well.

“We believe that the isolated culture is a calcified culture and that openness to the manifestations of others’ talents renews the blood that pumps through culture and elevates it to the ranks of creativity.”

Awarding the Prizes

Later on, Her Highness Princess Elena invited the Foundation’s General Secretary, Mr. Abdulaziz Al-Surayea, to announce the names of the winners. He announced the winners and requested they receive their prizes from Her Highness as follows:

1. The Honorary Prize in Poetic Creativity: Sudanese poet Dr. Mohyeddin Fares
2. The Creativity Prize in Poetry Criticism: Egyptian professor Ahmed Darwish
3. The Best Diwan Prize: Egyptian Poet Rabeh Lotfi Jumaa
4. The Best Poem Prize: Jointly won by two poets; Dr. Abdulrahman Bu Ali (Morocco) and Mr. Sayed Yousef Ahmed (Egypt)

The Winner’s Speech

Dr. Ahmed Darwish then delivered the winner’s speech and reiterated that today’s world is in dire need for the spirit of poetry, peace and harmony so it could restore the examples of love and civilized brotherhood, which once flourished in Cordoba and all parts of Spain during the Arab Islamic Civilization Era.

The Speech of the Spanish Minister of Culture

The Spanish government’s representative, Minister of Culture Dr. Carmen Kalvo Boyato, delivered a speech in which she praised the role assumed by the Foundation of Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain’s Prize for Poetic Creativity in encouraging and spreading Arab culture. She added that the openness and hospitality that characterize the city of Cordoba, in addition to the fact that it is a symbol of the East and West’s coexistence, was the main factor behind choosing the city as a venue for this great event.

The Speech of Her Highness Princess Elena

Her Highness Princess Elena concluded the opening ceremony by expressing her pleasure for convening this meeting in Cordoba. Several memorial photos were then taken with the winners.

The Letter of His Royal Highness Prince Charles to the Participants

His Highness Prince Charles, Heir Apparent of the United Kingdom, sent a written letter to the participants of the Ibn Zaydoun meeting in which he congratulated the Foundation for choosing Cordoba as a venue for the first Arab Poetic meeting in the West. He described the city as the most cultured city during the Middle Ages, not only in the field of dialogue between religions, but also in the genius of poetry and prose of whom Ibn Zaydoun was the best representative.

The meeting also included the following activities:

- Visiting Cordoba's civilization sites on 4/10/2004.
- The first evening poetry recital on 4/10 and the second on 6/10/2004.
- A musical performance by artist Ghada Shubair and the Lebanese Folklore Group on 5/10/2004. She sang a number of Andalusia songs and Mowashahat at the Baradio Hotel Hall.
- A folklore musical performance by Al-Omairi Folklore Group at Baradour Hotel Hall on 7/10/2004.
- Visiting Al-Zahra's historical city on 8/10/2004.

The Civilization Dialogue Seminar
«The Arab Islamic Civilization and the West: from Dispute to Partnership»

The First Session

Research Title: The Other's Image
Chairperson: Dr. Esam Al-Bashir
Researchers: Dr. Mohammed Al-Rumaihi, Mr. Mohammed Ali Al-Taskhiri and Dr. Fred Halliday

The Second Session

Research Title: The Three Divine Religions
Chairperson: Dr. Adnan Imran
Researchers: Dr. Mohammed Saleem Al-Awa, Dr. Gil Anidgar and Dr. Milad Hanna

The Third Session

Research Title: The Economic Relations
Chairperson: General Abdulrahman Siwar Al-Dahab
Researchers: Dr. Hazem Al-Biblawi, Dr. Bishara Khader and Dr. Antonie Zahlan

The Fourth Session

Research Title: Culture and Radicalism
Chairperson: Dr. Ali Oqla Irsan
Researchers: Dr. Rashid Al-Mubarak and. Dr. David Solar

The Fifth Session

Research Title: Culture and Globalization
Chairperson: Dr. Izzeddin Ismael
Researchers: Dr. Ali Omleil, Dr. Juan Pedro Monferrrer and Dr. Steven Weld

The Sixth Session

Research Title: Minorities: Identity Issues and Assimilation
Chairperson: Dr. Mohyeddin Amimour
Researchers: Dr. Abdulwahhab Al-Afendi, Dr. Daniel Newman and Dr. Nabil Matar

The Literary Seminar

The First Session

Research Title: The Historical and Civilization Aspect in Andalusia
Chairperson: Dr. Saleh Jarrar
Researches: Dr. Mahmoud Ali Makki and Dr. Juan Martinez Quesad

The Second Session

Research Title: Unity, Pluralism and Social and Religious Co-existence in Andalusia
Chairperson: Mr. Madyan Al-Mosawi
Researchers: Mr. Miguel Cruz Hernandez, Dr. Mubarak Al-Mannaie and Dr. Pierre Guichard

The Third Session

Research Title: Recalling Andalusia in Contemporary Spanish Poetry
Chairperson: Dr. Yaseen Al-Ayoubi
Researchers: Dr. Mahmoud Al-Sayed Ali, Dr. Manuela Cortes Garcia and Dr. Ahmed Abdulaziz

The Fourth Session

Research Title: The Woman in Andalusia Poetry: Wallada as a Model
Chairperson: Mr. Sideeq Al-Mojtaba
Researcher: Dr. Maria Teresa Garulo

The Fifth Session

Research Title: Ibn Zaydoun in Contemporary Arabic Literature; Between Researchers and Creative Writers
Chairperson: Dr. Mohammed Abdulraheem Kafoud
Researcher: Dr. Mohammed Hassan Abdullah
Research Title: Ibn Zaydoun in the Balance of Criticism
Researchers: Dr. Maria Jesus Viguera and Dr. Wahb Roumeya

The Sixth Session

Research Title: Ibn Zaydoun and his Impact on Andalusia Poetry
Chairperson: Dr. Mohammed Al-Kandiri
Researcher: Dr. Salma Al-Khadra Al-Jayyousi
Research Title: Al-Andalus and the Arabic Elements in Portuguese Poetry
Researcher: Dr. Alberto Alves

The Closing Session

The closing session witnessed a number of activities, the most important of which are:

Concluding the Agreement of the «Al-Babtain Professorship in Arabic Language»

This agreement falls under the framework of the cultural cooperation between the University of Cordoba and the Foundation of Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain's Prize for Poetic Creativity. The establishment of the Al-Babtain Arabic Language Professorship was announced at the conclusion of the meeting. Its aim is to teach Spanish students Arabic language at the University of Cordoba, according to modern scientific methods. It enables the students to master the language and converse in it. All the prerequisites and capabilities, as well as the scientific committees, were made available so that this important project, which was a product of this meeting, is successful.

The agreement was signed by the President of the Foundation Mr. Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain, on behalf of the Foundation, and Dr. Eugenio Dominguez Vilches, on behalf of the University of Cordoba.

Declaration of the Cordoba Statement, 2004

The Statement was read by Mr. Fahmi Howaidi, a member of the drafting committee. The Statement stressed the need to

explore the means of boosting the relations between the Arab and Western civilizations. It called upon the European Union to undertake a parallel effort to reinforce these relations at all levels. The Statement valued highly the initiation of the Foundation of Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain's Prize for Poetic Creativity for holding this meeting in Spain as an embodiment of mutual respect and common interests between the Arabs and Muslims and the Western world.

Distribution of Appreciation Certificates

The Kuwaiti Minister of Information and the Chairman of the National Council for Culture, Art and Letters, Mr. Mohammed Abdullah Abul Hassan, the Foundation's Chairman Mr. Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain and President of the University of Cordoba Dr. Eugenio Dominguez Vilches distributed the appreciation certificates to the prize winners at the Foundation's ninth meeting.

Guests' Speeches

His Excellency Ahmed Taleb Al-Ibrahimi delivered a speech, on behalf of the guests and won everyone's appraisal for its elegant style and profound ideas. He concluded his speech by calling for a genuine solution to the Palestinian cause as a factual key to comprehensive peace in the area.

The President of the University's Speech

President of the University of Cordoba, Dr. Eugenio Dominguez Vilches, clarified in his speech at the conclusion of the meeting that his relation with the Arab-Islamic world started in Morocco, where he spent three years on a scientific mission. He praised the project of the «Al-Babtain Arabic Language Professorship» at the University of Cordoba and described the rainfall on that day as a true expression of heaven's pleasure due to the new rapprochement between the Arabs and the Spaniards on the land of Andalusia.

The Foundation Chairman's Speech

Chairman of the Foundation Mr. Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain delivered an expressive speech on this occasion. He expressed his pleasure for the success of this meeting as it was distinguished with skillfulness, truthfulness and purity of conscience. He thanked the efforts of the great scholars who provided this meeting with the essence of their minds. He expressed his admiration for the constructive notes and discussions and praised the generous patronage extended by His Majesty King Juan Carlos, the Spanish Monarch. He also highlighted the role of the Spanish people and the government and extended his thanks to the Foundation's Secretariat General and employees.

Poetry comes only for one whose talent blossom bright and is tender in its fruit;
Smiling, to show a fragrant bloom
Like buds that show their flowers as they smile.

Ibn Zaydun



Daughter of the Spanish Monarch, H.H. Princess Elena, presents an award to Dr. Ahmed Darwish. From right to left; the Secretary General, the Foundation's Chairman, University of Cordoba President, Professor Eugenio Dominiguez Velches, the Princess' husband and the Spanish Minister of Culture Carmen Calvo Boyato.



A photo of the winner with Cordoba Mayor Mrs. Lussa Aguilar Rivera, President of the University of Cordoba, Spanish Minister of Culture, H.H. Princess Elena and her husband, the Foundation's Chairman and the wife of the Kuwaiti Ambassador to Spain.

The Tenth Session: Shawqi and Lamartine - Paris / France, 31 Oct - 3 Nov, 2006

This session bears the names of the two poets; Ahmed Shawqi - the Prince of Arab poets - and Alphonse Lamartine - the great French poet. Ahmed Shawqi was chosen because he was a prominent Arab poet and one of the most prolific and diverse. In 1927 the Arab poets chose him unanimously as their Laureate. He was familiar with French culture as he had studied law at Montpellier University and graduated from the Faculty of Law at the University of Paris. He then spent some time in the French capital studying French literature.

As for the French poet Lamartine, he was unanimously chosen by critics as one of the best French poets. In addition, he was fond of the Arab east and he had remarkable views about the Prophet Mohammed (PBUH) and the book of Mohammed's life.

Moreover, he visited the East and was fond of Lebanon. He left behind literary works which enriched the history of humanitarian literature all over the world.

During the 27th meeting in Cairo on 15/01/2005, the Foundation's Board of Trustees unanimously decided to organize the next session in Paris in 2006.

Paris was chosen as a venue for the tenth session to fulfill the Foundation's desire of re-communicating with the West and conducting a dialogue with it on civilization grounds, especially after the success achieved during the ninth session, which was held in Spain. Thus, the Foundation was encouraged to take another step towards Europe with the aim of pursuing the dialogue of civilizations between the East and West. Furthermore, Paris is deemed the capital of international culture and currently inhabits a large Arab community exceeding five million. The meeting was held with technical cooperation from the Paris based UNESCO organization.

The Supreme Committee, which undertakes the task of organizing the session, was formed according to a decision taken by the Chairman of the Board of Trustees on 16/4/2005. The Committee held its first meeting in Kuwait on 11 and 12/6/2005 under the Chairmanship of Mr. Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain. It decided that the meeting shall include two seminars.

Culture and Inter-Civilization Dialogue Seminar

This seminar comprised of three topics:

Multiculturalism in a Changing World Axis

- Dangers and Challenges in the Arab and Western Worlds
- Multiplication of Fundamentalisms in the World
- The Future of Muslims in Europe

Reform and Development

- The Prevailing Concepts about Islamic Justice and Western Democracy
- Reform: Reality and Aspirations

The Civilization and Cultural Arab-Islamic and Western (French) Common Grounds

- Taha Hussein: Enlightenment and Influence
- The Role of the Mediterranean Sea in Establishing the Civilization Link between the East and the West
- The Culture of Openness on the Other

The Literary Seminar

This seminar comprised of three topics:

The First Topic: Lamartine

- A Contemporary Reading of Lamartine
- The Impact of Lamartine and Romanticism on Arabic Literature
- The East and Islam in Lamartine's Works

2. The Second Topic: Ahmed Shawqi

- A Contemporary Reading of Ahmed Shawqi
- Ahmed Shawqi and the West
- Shawqi and Renovation in the Process of Arabic Poetry

3. The Third Topic: The Common Ground

- French Orientalism from Du Sassi to André Miguel
- The Image of the East and Islam for French Poets
- Love Madness in Literature between the East and the West

The Opening Ceremony

The Foundation's Tenth Session; "Shawqi and Lamartine," was inaugurated at 09:30 AM on Tuesday 31st October, 2006, at the site of the UNESCO Organization, under the patronage of His Excellency former French President Jacques Chirac and in the presence of His Excellency the Minister of Culture Renaud Donnedieu de Vabres. An elite group of senior dignitaries from the East and West attended and participated in the Session, along with several poets from different Arab and foreign countries and the winners of the Foundation's prizes. The Session was televised and internationally broadcast live through Al-Bawadi Satellite Channel.

The Opening Ceremony, which was held in one of UNESCO's halls, was presented by a member of the Foundation's Board of Trustees, the poet Mr. Farouq Shousha.

The Chairman's Speech

In the Name of Allah,

The Most Gracious,

The Most Merciful.

The speech of the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Foundation of Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain's Prize for Poetic Creativity:

Your Excellency, Renaud Donnedieu de Vabres, Minister of Culture, the Representative of His Excellency the President of the Republic of France;

Your Excellency, Mr. Kotzihiro Matzuura, Director General of UNESCO;

Dear participants and guests,

There is no doubt that this is a moment of pleasure and pride for the Foundation, to have the honor of the kind patronage of His Excellency the President of the Republic of France and Paris, the Princess of capitals for embracing the tenth session of the Foundation.

We are pleased to gather for the opening ceremony at the site of the UNESCO, the organization supervising the world cultures.

This step could not be achieved if the hosting country did not permit us to express our freedom of thought freely, which has become a slogan to France. Without the efforts of our Foundation, which, despite its short age, could emphasize its effective presence in the Arab arena and exceed its Arab circumference – without abandoning it – to reach international domains and prove its capability in communicating with international cultural institutions. It envisions culture as a spiritual link that congregate the cultured and intellectuals despite their various differences.

Ladies and Gentlemen, we intended to make this session distinguished in its content and for the first time in the Foundation's, the session is centered around two poets from two different worlds; Ahmad Shawqi, the Prince of Arab Poets and Lamartine, one of the Princes of French Poetry. This unity was intentional.

Ahmad Shawqi studied translation in his country and traveled to France to continue his studies in law and became familiar with the main attractions of the European civilization. In addition, Shawqi was not satisfied with the subject matter and preferred to observe and contemplate this different and amazing world.

On the other hand, Lamartine found himself contracted in his world, which provided him with the modern life requirements. He felt bored and yearned to visit those mountains where God manifested Himself, where he went on a spiritual tour that took him to Lebanon, Syria and Palestine. His writings about his journey were not a book but a poem about the East reflecting the affectionate feelings he stored towards that Holy Land.

This feeling of inferiority and the need to seek assistance from the other two poets was a feeling of moral perfection.

At this moment, we are saturated with confusion and we are in dire of need this noble feeling to reduce the extremity of some people and to raise the feeling of lowness in the others. Humanity, through its long history, was one entity that exchanged mental human manifestations and civilization continued to be a general human product wrapped in local aspects.

In addition, the distribution of humanity among the various religions is a natural matter, as long as religious belonging is a matter that can be decided by man.

This division does not give people the right to judge those who contradict their indoctrinations and divest them of the freedom of choice.

Our Holy Book has determined the sound element of this division, when He said: "If your Lord wants, then He would make all people one nation and still they would be in disagreement."

Lamartine, with his pure innateness, met this Quranic stand by saying: "I do not pray like you, but I pray with you to a common Lord. I do not have to mock you, but God is going to sue us all."

This real vision did not require the two poets to renounce their beliefs, as Ahmad Shawqi remained the poet of Arab and Islam and Lamartine continued to be a loyal and patriotic Christian. Thus, this difference has no effect in the transparent visions of any of the two poets.

We have come from different countries carrying peoples' hopes and various religions. Our hope is to commemorate the anniversary of these two eminent poets, who met at the moment of birth and death, and were denied from their different places due to hatred claims. Rather, they offered humanity a true picture of the self and the other. It is our duty to adopt their human vision and their moral stand that gives the other the same rights that they accept for themselves.

Let us believe that humanity represents one family and it is the duty of the strongest to be the leader and acquire the right power and it is the duty of the rich countries to try their best to eliminate poverty.

The Speech by the Secretary General of the Arab League

The Secretary General of the Arab League Organization, Mr. Amr Mousa, participated in this Session and delivered a speech in which he called for the UN Security Council to adopt dialogue between civilizations as it is an important issue. He also called for, under the order of UNESCO, to hold a session entitled; «The Issue of Relationships between Civilizations in Unstable Countries and its Threatening Affect on the World›s Stability and International Peace»

I hope this Session achieves all the success it set out to gain and I hope the Security Council this issue seriously into consideration.

Letters of the Amiri Diwan Affairs

The poet Farouq Shousha, host of the ceremony, introduced the Governor of Al-Ahmadi, Dr. Ibrahim Al-Duaij Al-Sabah, who read the letter from the Kuwaiti Amiri Diwan Affairs. On behalf of H.H. the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the letter congratulated the Foundation on the occasion of 10th Session's Opening Ceremony. The letter was read as follows:

My dear brother, Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, the Foundation of Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain's Prize for Poetic Creativity, and his kind brothers…

It gives me great pleasure to convey the compliments and congratulations of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, God bless and protect him, during the inauguration of the Foundation's Tenth Session; the Shawqi and Lamartine Session, on Tuesday, October 31st, 2006, which is being transmitted directly from the French capital, Paris, via the distinguished satellite channel "Al-Bawadi.

His Highness, God bless him, commends the efforts exerted in the preparation and organization of the session, as well as the interest and participation of many high level characters in the field of culture and poetry. His Highness hopes that success shall be bestowed on this session and wishes you good health and prosperity.

With Best Regards

Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah

Minister of the Amiri Diwan Affairs

The Speech of His Highness Sheikh Nasser Mohammad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Prime Minister of Kuwait

Your Excellency the Minister of Culture, Monsieur Renaud Donnedieu de Vabres and the representative of his Excellency, the President of the Republic of France;

Your Excellency, the Director of UNESCO, Kotzihiro Matzuura;

Dear guests,

In the name of my country Kuwait, the Amir, the government and the people, it gives me pleasure to welcome this group of intellectuals who carry the world's concerns and hopes in their hearts. They came from all over the world with the desire of replacing intimacy instead of hatred and peace instead of hostility.

In this regard, I would like to extend my thanks to the hosting country and the esteemed President for the kind care they have bestowed on this session. This care corresponds with the well-established traditions founded by the great French intellectuals who made freedom of thought a holy and legal right. As God said in the Holy Quran "Verily, we have dignified the sons of Adam."

In the Arab world, we appreciate the wise policy adopted by His Excellency President Jacques Chirac and the French government for their recognized stand with the just issues of the Arab people. Simultaneously, we comply with the necessity of respecting each country's sovereignty and avoid referring to violence when solving world disputes. Rather we should adopt the language of dialogue as an ideal means of understanding one another, respect the international lawful resolutions and establish cooperation between the countries of the North and South in order to bridge the civilization gap between them.

We, in Kuwait, bless this session on culture and civilization dialogue, which is being held in Paris; the city of lights and freedom, so as to acquire the highest level of attendance and effectiveness.

We are in dire need during these hard times where some nations try to provoke others, driven by evil motives and insulting their sacred religion, under the chains of the right of opinion or by promoting the theory of civilization conflict as if it were the only fact that governs the human process, even when referring to arms rather than dialogue to solve disputes. Therefore, we call upon the wise people from all over the world to shoulder their responsibilities to save human reputation and stop this madness, which some fanatical individuals from both sides try to ignite.

We believe that controversy and disagreement is a human holy right and popularity is the characteristic of age. Moreover, disagreement, which is established from free content, is the only means to achieve a constructive coalition.

This international gathering that represents all religions, nationalities and intellectual domains believes that dialogue is the shortest way to reality and the easiest way to acquaintance and solidarity.

May I praise the efforts of the Foundation of Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain's Prize for Poetic Creativity and the patron who stored all the nations' hopes within himself and solely shouldered the responsibility of the financial burdens?

I would like to commend this Foundation, which represents the bright face of Arabic culture. It looks to poetry through its relation with the issues of age, to the extent that it attends to world cultures and shoulders the moral responsibility, while witnessing ignited violence.

Therefore, the Foundation has established a special centre for civilization dialogue and called for this symposium, which is honored by your wise opinions, to act as a strong barrier in the face of hatred and destruction.

We are looking for a future void of fear and hunger, where banners of right and justice rise high and the power of law is the only power and the effective authority. I call upon this fine gathering, which represents the world's nations and religions, to take this meeting as a window for fruitful and continuous efforts so our offspring can enjoy a blissful life under the umbrella of peace, freedom and security.

The Speech of H.E. Sheikh Dr. Ibrahim Al-Duaij Al-Sabah

His Excellency delivered a speech, which went as follows:

It is my pleasure to greet all the guests who are attending and I would also like to extend my sincere congratulations to the researchers and intellectuals who won the Foundation's prizes. We consider Al-Babtain's Foundation as a pillar for culture in Kuwait and we thank our brother, Abdulaziz Al-Babtain, for all that he has achieved and for what he will continue to do, especially with developing this magnificent cultural bridge that he is building between the East and the West.

And in these critical days, we need to request more meetings that combine poetry, civilization and existence for those encounters which are desired by our Brother Abdulaziz. As the well-known French thinker Jean Cocteau said: «Poetry is not the art of reciting; but the art of existence.»

What decreases when man blends passion and wisdom? Is it not a fundamental value in Islam and Christianity? Is it not love, compassion and tolerance that are the essence of the Abrahamic religions, which founded wisdom and produced civilization where wisdom is the way to believer?

Speech of Minister of Education Dr. Adel Al-Tabtabaei

Then the Kuwaiti Minister of Education and Higher Education, Dr. Adel Al-Tabtabaei, delivered a speech on behalf of His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, President of the Council of Ministers. He assured that Kuwait believes that the divergence of opinion is a human right and a sacred right and that pluralism is the sign of our era and the incoming differences from free conviction was the only way to realizing a constructive coalition.

«On behalf of my country Kuwait, the Amir and the people, I am happy to greet this meeting, which includes a selection of thinkers who have grievances, concerns and hopes for the world. They came from across the globe, pulled by the desire to bring love to replace hatred, peace instead of violence and brotherhood in place of enemies.

We in Kuwait congratulate this symposium on Culture and Dialogue among Civilizations, which is being held in Paris, the country of brightness and liberty. We hope it gains a higher degree of attendance and effectiveness as we are in greatest need during these difficult times, where some opposing parties try to provoke others by insulting their holy places, under the pretext of freedom of opinion. Or they try to promote the theory of the clash of civilizations as if it is the only truth that governs the course of humanity or they resort to solve crises with the use of arms rather than dialogue. We need to impose sensible people from different backgrounds to take on the responsibility to save the declining reputation of humanity to become the law of the land that is governed by the countries.

We believe in Kuwait that the divergence of opinion is a human right and a sacred right and that pluralism is the sign of our era. The incoming differences from free conviction are the only way to realizing a constructive coalition. This crowd, which cover all the colors of the spectrum of religious, nationalities, intellectuality and who believe that dialogue is the shortest way to the truth and the easiest way to achieve acquaintance and solidarity, should undertake the task that they committed to. I hope that this symposium will dissipate the clouds of the world and they will return to harmony and goodwill, among the general human spectrum".

Professor Matzuura's Speech

In his statement, the General Director of UNESCO commended the Foundation of Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain's for its efforts in promoting of Poetry and said; "This is the second time the Foundation has held such event in Europe and it is an occasion to discuss common dialogue between civilizations.

The Speech of Pope Benedict XVI

Monsieur Francisco Follo, Permanent Observer of the Holy See to UNESCO, delivered a speech on behalf of the Pope of the Vatican, Pope Benedict XVI. In his speech, he assured the importance of this Session in adopting dialogue between civilizations, pointing out that the world has now collided with the dangers of ignorance. He added that we should make a culture of tolerance and love the basis of our origin and that we should firmly support dialogue and understanding and not differences and separation.

The Speech of H.E. the Minister of Culture Renaud Donnedieu de Vabres

On Behalf of French President Jacques Chirac

The Representative of His Excellency President Jacques Chirac, Minister of Culture Renaud Donnedieu de Vabres, delivered a speech where he praised the Foundation of Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain's Prize for Poetic Creativity and the unique

relations between Kuwait and France. He also praised the poet Mr. Abdulaziz Al-Babtain, Chairman and patron of the Foundation and its Board of Trustees.

The Winners

The awards were distributed as follows:

1.The Honorary Prize in Poetic Creativity: the Kuwaiti poetess, Dr. Soad Al-Sabah

2.The Creativity Prize in Poetry Criticism: Jointly won by the two Jordanian critics Dr. Bassam Qattus and Dr. Mohammad Ibrahim Hawaar

3.The Best Diwan Prize: the Syrian poet Reda Rajab

4.The Best Poem Prize: the Egyptian poet Jameel Abdulrahman

The Winner's Speech

Dr. Suad Al-Ateeqi delivered the winners' speech in which she stated: "We are gathering today in Paris, the city of culture, civilization and innovations. Culture is destined to be the bridge and to re-build what policy and interests have demolished. Politics has distorted the human image, while the creativity of poems, plays and symphonies have beautified it. Culture is the gist of wisdom, while politics is the gist of distortion. My dear Brothers, culture is the question; and the Man who does not ask is basically dead like a stone. The intellectuals are the pioneers who paved the way for the millions of people that could not express themselves or were too afraid to say what they feel because they would have been persecuted. The intellectual is the official spokesman, who expresses their feelings, joy and daily sufferings. I urge the politicians to follow reason and consciousness, in order to build a peaceful world for our children. I pay tribute to Paris that I adore, because I leaned a lot from it and also to Mr. Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain and his Foundation for the great role they are contributing to dialogue of civilization. Thank you for the financial prize that I forward to the Kuwaiti Disabled Association that has provided great support.

The Closing Ceremony

"In the name of the participants at Shawqi and Lamartine's Session, we thank His Excellency President Jacques Chirac, the President of the Republic of France, for His kind patronage of this Session. We also thank His Royal Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the Amir of Kuwait, and the Prime Minister Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah for his precious words in supporting the Foundation, as well as the participants.

We also like to thank His Excellency Mr Kotzihiro Matzuura, General Manger of UNESCO, and Professor Yves Guena, President of the Arab World Institute and her employees for what they have offered in supporting the success of the Session's activities. We also like to thank the Board of Trustees of the Foundation of Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain's Prize for Poetic Creativity and all its employees for all their hard work in facilitating this unique opportunity to gather for the cause of dialogue to breach the gap between cultures and dedicate to moderating and recognizing the other.

The Founation's Board of Trustees would also like to greatly thank Dr. Said Mohammad Khatami, the President of the International Association for Dialogue of Civilizations and Mr. Amr Mousa, the General Secretary of the Arab League Organization for their generosity in accepting our invitation and participating in the Session's activities.

In closing we would like to refer to this encouraging atmosphere that permitted us to converse freely and openly in all our sessions.

The Supreme Organizing Committee decided to publish a number of books and translations about the meeting, the two poets and the exchanged cultural influence between Arab and French literatures including:

1. *Selections from Ahmad Shawqi's Poetry*: Selected and presented by Mr. Farouq Shousha.
2. *Ahmad Shawqi; in Sources and References*: Edited by Dr. Mohammad Fathi Abdulhadi and Dr. Nabila Khalifa Juma.
3. *Shawqi in the Eyes of His Contemporaries*: By Dr. Soad Abdulwahab.
4. *Inspiration and Art in Ahmad Shawqi's Poetry*: By the Orientalist Antoinne Boudo La Moat, translated by Dr. Mahmoud Al-Maqdad.
5. *Ahmad Shawqi; Images and Documents:* By. Mr. Emad Ghazali and Dr. Mohammad Mustafa Abu Shawareb.
6. *Selections from Lamartine's Poetry:* Selected by Paul Shaoul, reviewed by Dr. Elias Barrage.
7. *Arabic Translations of Lamartine's Poetry:* By Dr. Mohammad Zakaria Anani.
8. *Selections from the book of «Mohammad's Life»*: By Alphonse De La Martine, translated by Dr. Mohammad Qubaea, reviewed and presented by Dr. Ahmad Darwish.
9. *Selections from the Book of «A Journey to the East»:* By Lamartine (2 parts), translated by Dr. Jamal Sheid and Ms. Mari Touq.
10. *Selections from the Book «Egyptian Writers and Travellers to France»:* By Dr. Anwar Luqa, translated by Dr. Camilla Sobhi and Dr. Amal Al-Sabban.
11. *Selections from the Book of «French Men of Letters and Travellers in Egypt»:* By Mr. John Mary Carrie, translated by Dr. Sonia Najah and Dr. Rasha Saleh.
12. *Romantic Gestures:* By Dr. Munes Taha Hussein, translated by Dr. Mohammad Ali Al-Kurdi.
13. *Biographies of the Poets in Al-Babtain's Encyclopaedia (In English)*: By the Encyclopaedic team, translated by Mr. Mustafa Abu Saud.

The Program for the Session

The first symposium pertained to culture and inter-civilization dialogue, and it went as follows:

The First Session

Chairperson: Dr. Sayed Mohammad Khatimi
Moderator: Dr. Ahmad Darwish
Subject: Multiculturalism in a Changing World; Dangers and Challenges in the Arab and Western World
Researchers: Dr. Amin Mushaqabah, Dr. Jean-Paul D'Charnay, Dr. Ghalib Bin Sheikh and Prof. P. S. Koningsveld

The Second Session

Chairperson: Senator Marseille Bardom
Subject: Reform and Development; the Prevailing Concepts about Islamic Justice and Western Democracy
Researchers: Dr. Hassan Hanafi, Dr. Mohamad Al-Sharfi and Dr. Carlos Bruquetas

The Third Session

Chairperson: Prof. Eve Guina
Subject: The Civilization and Cultural Arab-Islamic and Western (French) Common Grounds; Enlightenment and Influence

Researchers: Dr. Sameh Korayem, Dr. Abdulhamid El-Fehri, Dr. Michele Capasso, Dr. Abdulmunem Saeed and Dr. Pascal Boniface

The second symposium was literary based and it comprised of three sessions, which were:

The First Session

Chairperson: Dr. Ahmad Darwish

Moderator: Dr. Bassam Qattoos

Subject: The Common Ground Cultural Axis

Researchers: Dr. Boutros Hallak, Dr. Nafisa Shash, Dr. Pierre Brunel, Dr. Najma Idris and Dr. Leili Anvar-Chenderoff

The Second Session

Chairperson: Dr. Abdullah Abeed
Subject: Shawqi's Axis
Researchers: Dr. Mahmoud Al-Rabii, Dr. Floreal Sanagustin, Dr. Fawzi Issa, Dr. Saleh Jawad Al-Toma, Dr. Mohamed Al-Haddad, Dr. Khalil Al-Mousa and Dr. Francesca Maria Corrao.

The Third Session

Chairperson: Dr. Rasheed Al-Hamad
Subject: Lamartine's Axis
Researchers: Dr. Muriel Louapre, Dr. Misbah Al-Samad, Dr. Qadriya Awadh and Dr. Ali Kurkhan

Other Activities

The following events were also held during the session at the Arab World Institute in Paris:

- Al-Omairi, the Kuwaiti folklore musical group, performed in the first artistic evening on 31/10/2006.
- The first evening poetry recital was held on 01/11/2006, in which elite Arab and foreign poets participated.
- Mowal, the Tunisian group, performed and sang various Arab traditional songs.
- During the closing ceremony, the Lebanese artist, Ghada Shubair, conducted a musical performance.



The Foundation Chairman Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain presides over the first meeting of the Supreme Organizing Committee in Kuwait with the presence of the Secretary General Mr. Abdulaziz Al-Surayea and other members, including Dr. Ahmed Darwish, Dr. Ilham Kallab, Dr. Shawqi Belkrif, Mr. Salah Stetieh, Dr. Moh'd Al-Rumaihi, the Committee Rapporteur Mr. Abdulaziz Juma and with the participation of Dr. Moh'd Mustafa Abu Shawareb and Mr. Abdulrahman Khalid Al-Babtain.

Should all the hopes we have
always be dashed.
Our life passes, then death-
night enfolds.
The barks of life sail with us
all the way through life,
but we cast no anchor.
O' lake of love, may you be
blessed, how often
your waters greeted us with a
yearning breeze.

Lamartine, Le Lac

Poetry is two types: one that
will endure for evermore,
or cease once it is said.
It has no room for the new or
obsolete,
The whole time is the age of
genuine verse.
Diction and sense it is,
so look out for a noble word
and for a noble sense.

Ahmed Shawqi

The Eleventh Session: Al-Babtain's Encyclopedia of Arab Poets in the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries

Kuwait, 27 - 30 October, 2008

During a meeting held on 25/12/2006, the Board of Trustees decided to base the forthcoming session on one of the Foundation's most important projects; «Al-Babtain's Encyclopedia of Arab Poets in the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries». It was set to be held in Kuwait, the country from which this great piece of work has emerged. This publication took 11 years of hard work and team effort to complete and contains biographies of more than eight thousand deceased poets from the years 1801 to 2008. This great Encyclopedia contains biographies and poetic samples of 8,039 poets, in addition to 1479 poets who never received sufficient documentation. Furthermore, this was the first session that took place in Kuwait and was aimed at enriching Kuwait's cultural heritage.

On November 28, 2007, the Chairman of the Board of Trustees issued a resolution to form the senior Organizing Committee, under his Chairmanship and the membership of a number of specialized persons. The first meeting was held in Kuwait on 14-16-2007 and issued the following resolutions:

1. Declaration upon completion of Al-Babtain's Encyclopedia of Arab Poets in the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries and the issuing of its 25 volumes.
2. Holding a literature-based symposium which includes researches about Al-Babtain's Encyclopedia of Arabic Poets in the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries and other Arabic Poetry in these two centuries.
3. Holding a dialogue of civilization entitled "The World Today: Cultures and Interests," with contributions from 6 Arab researchers and 6 Western researchers.

The Session's Publications

1- *Al-Babtain's Encyclopedia of Arab Poets in the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries*: Includes biographies of 8039 poets, in addition to 1479 poets, who never received sufficient documentation. This Encyclopedia consists of 25 volumes.

2- *Diwan Al-Akhras*: By Abdullkader Ben Abdulwahed Ben Wahab Al-Moselly Al-Baghdadi Al-Basrri (1874), edited by Waleed Al-Aazami and reviewed by Abdulaziz Juma and Ibrahim Al-Aswad; 696 pages.

3- *Diwan Saqer Al-Shebeeb*: Presented and edited by Dr. Yaqoub Ghuneem; 736 pages.

4- *Elia Abo Madi (the Complete Works)*: Collected and edited by Abdulkarim Al-Ashter and reviewed by Mahmoud Al-Bajjali; 1146 pages.

5- *Image of the West in Modern Arabic Poetry*: Written by Dr. Ihab Al-Najdi and reviewed by Mahmoud Al-Bajjali; 419 pages.

6- *The Shawqi/Lamartine Session's Book; Researches and Discussions (2 Parts):* Edited and reviewed by Mahmoud Al-Bajjali and Abdulaziz Juma 1277 pages.

7- *Winners of the Best Poem (1990 - 2006)*: Prepared by Jamal Al-Beili and edited by Abdulaziz Al-Surayea; 136 pages.

8- *Winners of the Foundation's Prizes:* Prepared by Jamal Al-Beili and edited by Abdulaziz Al-Surayea; 138 pages.

9- *Winners of the 11th Session's Prizes (October 2008)*: Prepared by Jamal Al-Beili; 39pages.

10- *A booklet about the Board of Trustees;* 24 pages.

Two additional honorary books were issued on the sidelines of the session:

11- *The Great Author Abu Al-Qassem Mohammad Kerro*: Prepared by the General Secretariat and edited by Abdulaziz Juma and Mahmoud Al-Bajjali; 372 pages.

12- *Dr. Izzeddin Ismael*: A memoriam book written by his colleagues and friends, collected by Adnan Farzat and edited by Abdulaziz Juma, Ibrahim Al-Aswad and Mahmoud Al-Bajjali; 326 pages.

The Session's Program

- The Opening Ceremony
- The Chairman of the Foundation's Speech
- The Patron's Speech
- The Arbitration's Statement
- Distributing the Prizes
- The Winners' Speeches
- The Winning Poem
- Presenting Al-Babtain's Encyclopedia of Arab Poets in the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries

The Opening Ceremony

The inauguration ceremony of the Eleventh Session, "Al-Babtain's Encyclopedia of Arab Poets in the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries" was held at Sabah Al-Salem Auditorium in Kuwait University on Monday 27/10/2010. Several prominent politicians and dignitaries in the fields of culture, poetry and literature attended the ceremony, under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmed Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the Amir of Kuwait, may Allah bless him. He was represented by H.E. the former Minister of Information and the Head of the National Council of Culture, Arts and Letters, Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Sabah.

The aim of this ceremony was to celebrate the issuing of "Al-Babtain's Encyclopedia of Arab Poets in the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries," which took more than 11 years to complete. This great work will persevere by issuing further encyclopedias to emphasize the originality of this type of art, such as Arab Diwan, to support the issues of peace and co-existence embodied in Arabic poetry and to eradicate conflict by supporting dialogue. This was celebrated in the Session's second symposium. In this context, it is worth mentioning that this was the first session held in Kuwait by the Foundation to match the pioneering role Kuwait plays in culture.

The ceremony started with an Amiri Anthem and then the opening statement by the well known media figure, Mr. Reda Al-Feili, who delivered a speech about the Foundation's efforts in supporting and promoting Arab culture and dialogue of civilization.

The Session was then followed by a recitation from the Holy Quran by Sheikh Ahmad Al-Trabulsi.

The Patron's Speech

Delivered by the former Minister of Information and the Head of the National Council of Culture, Arts and Letters, H.H. Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Sabah, the representative of H.H. Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmed Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, may Allah bless him. H.H. referred to the royal patronage of the Foundation and its active role in dialogue of civilization and its efforts to issue the distinguished "Al-Babtain's Encyclopedia of Arab Poets in the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries." H.H. the Minister of Information commended the Foundation's role in serving Arab culture and Kuwait through its cultural institutions and simultaneously serves as a root and shelter. Furthermore, H.H. said "Kuwait opened the doors for Arab renaissance to welcome scientists, humanitarians, poets, intellectuals, academics and men of literature to make us of theirs experiences in enhancing education and making developed management".

The Guest's Speech

H.E former Lebanese Prime Minister Mr. Fouad Siniora said "The Foundation of Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain's Prize for Poetic Creativity has achieved many goals since its establishment that preserve and develop historical and civilized heritage and contribute to internalization. The new eras, that have witnessed huge changes in the nation's life, have tried to displace poetry and elocution from leadership to use it in economy and politics instead. The economical and political crises have showed that humanity needs a comprehensive vision that will amalgamate culture and economy and politics and rescue it from this crisis. In this context, the Foundation became more comprehensive in its visions when it allotted a symposium on civilization and inter-faith dialogue separate from a poetry symposium."

The Chairman's Speech

Mr. Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Foundation of Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain's Prize for Poetic Creativity, delivered a speech where he thanked His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmed Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the Amir of Kuwait, for his kind patronage of the this session. He also thanked the attending the representative of the Amir, H.E. Sheikh Sabah, former Ministers of Information and Head of the National Council of Culture, Art and Letters. He said; "We are gathering here today, in this gracious place, to celebrate together the issuing of the first Encyclopedia of Arabic Poetry in this contemporary age. Our deepest gratitude and thanks go to His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmed A-Jaber Al-Sabah, the Amir of Kuwait, for His precious patronage of this session, represented by H.E. Sheikh Sabah, the Ministers of Information and Head of the National Council of Culture, Art and Letters. With all respect, we are remembering the precious auspicious of the Amirs of Kuwait towards our Foundation from the beginning of its establishment; His Highness Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad, may Allah save his soul, His Highness Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah, may Allah save his soul, His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmed A-Jaber Al-Sabah, may Allah save him. They have

supported the Foundation with all types of support and provided their advice and notes. They have adhered to ensure the Foundation's success and this is clear proof of the perceptions of the Amirs of Kuwait. They have realized the important role of culture and its impact and Kuwait has become the stereotype for future generations.

Since its establishment, the Foundation has held ten sessions about eminent Arab poets, covering all past centuries. In addition to the literary symposiums, the Foundation has lunched symposiums of dialogue for mutual understanding. Further more, the Foundation realized early on, the necessity of issuing poetic encyclopedias as they are the pot that preserves poetic heritage from vanishing. The first encyclopedia; "Al-Babtain's Encyclopedia of Contemporary Arab Poets," includes more than 2000 living poets in its second editions. Then, the Foundation moved to another ambitious project that we are celebrating this day; "Al-Babtain's Encyclopedia of Arab Poets in the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries." It is worth mentioning that "Mojam Al-Shuaara" by "Al-Marzabani" in the fourth Hijra century, was the first encyclopedia of Arabic poets and contained brief biographies of 1080 poets. After more than 1000 years, we present biographies of more than 8000 poets in 25 volumes. With these two encyclopedias, the Foundation will have served Arabic culture and set the first map that illuminates the different aspects of Arabic poetry in the last two centuries."

The Arbitration Statement

The Board of Trustees of the Foundation of Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain's Prize for Poetic Creativity held its 32nd meeting in Bloudan, Syria, where it announced the results of the three prize categories as follows:

1. The Honorary Prize in Poetic Creativity: Palestinian poet Haroun Hashim Rasheed.
2. The Poetry Criticism Prize: Concealed.
3. The Best Poetry Divan Prize: Iraqi poet Yahya Al-Samawi.
4. The Best Poem Prize: Jordanian poetess Nabeelah Al-Khateeb.

All the aforementioned prizes were delivered by the representative of the His Highness the Amir, Sheikh Sabah, former Minister of Information and Head of the National Council of Culture, Art and Letters.

Winners' Speech

The poet, Mr. Haroun Al-Rasheed, delivered the winners' speech, where he assured that "poetry is the master of sweet speech…Poetry is the diwan of the Arabs…Poetry is born in humans and the original poet reveals their beauty, soul, freedom and originality and seeks for creation and innovation." Then, poetess Nabeelah Al-Khateeb delivered her winning poem.

The Secretary General of the Foundation, Mr. Abdulaziz Al-Surayea, also delivered a speech about "Al-Babtain's Encyclopedia of Arab Poets in the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries," where he praised the efforts of the team that worked on the Encyclopedia through the last 11 years. He also praised the efforts of the Foundation's president, who paved the way and

facilitated all the difficulties with all kinds of support. Some team members that worked on the Encyclopedia were honored.

Words and Letters

The Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Mr. Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain, received many congratulatory and moral support letters on the occasion of holding this session and here are some of them:

Letter from His Royal Highness Prince El-Hassan bin Talal, President of the Arab Thought Forum

"… You have added "Al-Babtain's Encyclopedia of Arab Poets in the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries" as a distinguished mark of quality and such work forms a leap in our cultural and intellectual life that we are really in need of. Such work collects millions of scattered works, authenticates poetry and infuses happiness and determination, other things that we have missed with the defeat of time."

Letter from His Royal Highness Prince Khalid Al-Faisal bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud, Governor of Mecca Province, President of the Arab Thought Foundation

"… Culture has its men and faithful followers, who spare no time, money and efforts to serve it. They have realized its importance in people's civilizations and they do all they can to achieve their duties towards their nations. There is no doubt that, Mr. Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain is one of those men and faithful followers, as I know him, as I do cultural institutions and their employees. He serves Arab culture and his Foundation has a great role and influence in our cultural environment. Two decades have passed and the Foundation is still holding sessions and symposiums that deliver a communicational message to the culture of others."

The Session's Program

The first associated symposium pertained to civilization and inter-faith dialogue and it was entitled "The World Today: Cultures and Interests." It included three sessions, which were:

The First Session

Topic: Today's Dominant Cultures
First Research: The Current International Cultural Scene; the Dominant Cultures
Researchers: Prof. Huda Al-Dakheel and Prof. Anthony Friendo
Second Research: Critical Reading and a Preview of the International Cultural Scene
Researchers: Dr. Hesham Mesbah and Dr. Joseph Maila

The Second Session

Topic: The Struggle of Interests; Impact on the International Cultural Scene
First Research: Interests and their Impact on the Cultural Scene and the Arab World
Researchers: Dr. Al-Hassan Bouqentar and Dr. Ons Debbech
Second Research: Arab Issues; Understanding and Misunderstanding
Researchers: Dr. Abdulrazzak Qasum and Dr. Jamil Jreisat

The Third Session

Topic: Dialogue of Cultures; A Way to Solve Issues
First Research: The Bases of Enhancing Dialogue of Cultures
Researchers: Dr. Abdullah Al-Jasmi and Prof. Massimo Bacigalupo

Second Research: The Role of Intellectuals and Community Organizations in the Dialogue of Cultures
Researchers: Dr. Izzeddine Omar Mousa and Dr. Patrick Parrinder

The second associated symposium was literature based and it included two sessions about the Encyclopedia, which were:

The First Session

Topic: The Encyclopedia's Studies
First Research: Al-Babtain's Encyclopedia of Arab Poets in the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries and Heritage Dictionaries: A Comparative Study between the Heritage Efforts and the Dictionary
Researcher: Dr. Mohamed Hassan Abdullah
Second Research: The Procedure of Poet Biographies and Selecting the Poetry in Al-Babtain's Encyclopedia of Arab Poets in the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries
Researcher: Dr. Mohammad Fattouh Ahmad
Third Research: Poetic Encyclopedias in the Poems of the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries
Researcher: Saadiya Mofareh

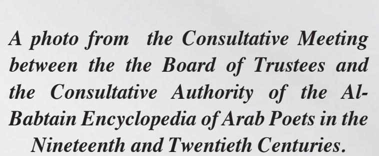
The Second Session

Topic: Critical and Literature Studies
First Research: Poetry and Arab Identity in Al-Babtain's Encyclopedia of Arab Poets in the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries
Researcher: Dr. Mohamad Ibrahim Howar
Second Research: The Indications of the Renaissance of Arabic Poetry in the Nineteenth Century
Researcher: Dr. Wajih Fanous
Third Research: The Calling for Pre-Islamic Poems of the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries
Researcher: Dr. Wahab Roumieh
Fourth Research: Music of the Arabic Poems in Al-Babtain's Encyclopedia of Arab Poets in the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries.
Researcher: Dr. Naseemah Al-Ghaith



The Opening Ceremony of the 12th Session; Al-Babtain's Encyclopedia of Arab Poets in the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries.





A photo from the Consultative Meeting between the the Board of Trustees and the Consultative Authority of the Al-Babtain Encyclopedia of Arab Poets in the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries.

The Twelfth Session: Khalil Mutran and Mohammed Ali/ Mak Dizdar, Sarajevo/Bosnia 19-21 October 2010.

After extensive preparations that lasted for two years, the 12th session was held from the 19-21 of October. The opening ceremonies were held at 11 am on Monday 19/10/2010 at the Holiday Inn in Sarajevo, under the patronage of His Excellency Haris Silajdzic. A host of guests attended, from both inside Bosnia and abroad, and they shared the attendance with an elite of journalists both Arab and foreign.

The speeches that were delivered on that day were delivered in this order:

- The President of the Foundation, the Poet Abdul Aziz Saud Al-Babtain, President of the Board of Trustees of the Foundation for the Abdul Aziz Saud Al-Babtain Prize for Poetic Creativity.

- A speech by the patron of the session, His Excellency Dr. Haris Silajdzic, President of Bosnia and Herzogvina.

- A speech by the Kuwaiti Prime Minister Sheikh Nasser AlMohammed Al Ahmed Al Jaber Al Sabah, but spoken on his behalf by Rashed Abdulmohsen Al-Hammad, Vice President of the Ministerial Committee for Legal Affairs, and Minister of Justice, and Minister of Religious Endowments and Islamic Affairs in Kuwait.

- A speech by His Excellency Amr Moussa, General Secretary of the Arab League.

- A speech by Sayyed Ammar Hakim, President of the Islamic Supreme Council, Iraq, and President of the Najjaf Celebrations Committee.

-A speech by Farouq Tshaaklovitsa, President of Sarajevo University.

- A speech by Sheikh Dr. Ahmed Omar Hashem, representative of the Grand imam Dr. Ahmad Al-Tayyeb, Sheikh of Al-Azhar.

- A speech by His Holiness Pope Benedict the 16th, given by Allesandro Dreco, Archbishop of Bosnia & Herzegovina.

- A speech by Jose Augustus Lind Green Elvis, representative of the Brazilian Government.

- A speech by Mr. Anwar Mak Dizdar, son of the poet Mohammed Ali/Mak Dizdar

- A speech by the winners given by Dr. Salah Rizq.

The Winners:

On the 19th of June 2010, the General Secretariat held the 35th meeting at the house of the President of the Board of Trustees Mr. Abdul Aziz Saud Al-Babtain in Beludan in Syria, to decide on the winners of the 12 session of the Prize. The winners are as follows:

1. **Prize for Poetic Creativity, given to the great poet Lamia Abbas Imara, from Iraq.**

2. **Prize for Critical Creativity to Dr. Salah Rizq from Egypt**

3. **Prize for Best Diwan to Ahmed Hassan Mohammed from Egypt**

4. **Prize for Best Poem to Faris Harram from Iraq**

The President of the Board of Trustees announced the winners on the 27th of June 2010 at a press conference in Damascus, attended by Dr. Riyadh Nasan Agha, Syrian Cultural Minister, and a number of high-ranking government officials.

At 5 o'clock on opening day, the events began with a forum titled 'The Dialogue of Civilizations in a Different World: Disparity and Harmony' in two sessions, the first moderated by His Excellency Dr. Ibrahim Duaij AL-Sabah, and the second by Dr. Bar Steinbeck, the former Finnish minister of Education.

Over the course of the next two days, a literary forum was held over 4 sessions discussing 3 subjects: Mohamed Ali/Mak Dizdar, Khalil Mutran, and the Arab-Bosnian cultural connection. During the first day, there was a musical show by the preeminent Lebanese musician Ghada Chbeir and her ensemble, and the next day contained a joint poetry reading, while the last day had a show of Bosnian folk music. During the concluding statement, Mr. Al-Babtain pledged his support to disseminating Arabic culture throughout Bosnia by: publishing 5 books annually regarding Arabic culture to be disseminated in Bosnia, courses in strengthening Arabic language in Sarajevo University, five full scholarships to Arabic university, research sabbaticals for 50 researchers. His gestures were welcome and appreciated by the Bosnian people.

The President of the Foundation had invited 872 personalities from across Arab and foreign lands, with an attendance of 385 participants from outside of Bosnia. Present were cultural, political, intellectual and religious personalities, with 48 journalists from outside of Bosnia, and 300 from inside Bosnia.

The forum had excellent attendance across the spectrum of its activities, and was extremely successful, according to surveys handed out to the guests. The forum was covered by media outlets from both inside and outside the Arab world, all which pointed towards the striking success of the forum.

General Schedule:

First Day, Tuesday 19/10/2010

First: Dialogue of the Civilizations in a Different World: Disparity and Harmony

First Session 19/10/2010

A new understanding for the question of the clash of civilizations

Moderator: Dr. Ibrahim Duaij Al-Sabah (Kuwait)

Dr. Abdulla Said Wild Abah (could not attend)

Dr. Vincenzo Scottie (Italy)

The United States and the dialogue of civilizations in a new phase

Dr. Saad Bin Tifla (Kuwait)

Dr. John Downey (UK)

Second session

The Security Council and the Dialogue of Civilizations

Moderator: Dr. Bar Steinbeck (Finland)

Dr. Mazen Ghraibeh (Jordan)

Dr. Aftip Kamal Pasha (India)

Cultural Dimensions in the Dialogue of Civilizations

Dr. Nadia Mustafa (Egypt)

Dr. Mustafa Imamovic (Bosnia)

Second: Literary Forum

First Session: Wednesday 20/10/2010

Disussion of Mohammed Ali/Mak Dizdar

Moderator: Dr. Yusif Ramic (Bosnia)

The Cultural Makeup of Mohammed Ali/Mak Dizdar

Dr Mirini Katnic – Bakarcic (Bosnia)

Dizdar’s Poetic Experience

Dr. Ans Dorakovic (Bosnia)

Translating Dizdar

Dr. Adiata Ibrahimovic (Bosnia)

Second Session: Thursday 21/10/2010

Moderator: Dr. Salama Al-Suwaidi (Qatar)

The Cultural Tributaries Of Mutran's Poetics

Dr Mohammed Zakaria Onany (Egypt)

Features, Mechanics, and Components of Mutran's Poetics

Dr. Khalil Mousa (Syria)

Mutran Between Revivalism and Romanticism

Dr. Amina Faris Ghusn (Lebanon)

Third Session 21/10/2010

Discussion on Arabic-Bosnian Common Culture in the Modern Age

Moderator: Dr. Mohammad Kitso (Bosnia)

Arabic and Islamic Influence in Modern Bosnian Poetry

Dr. Jamalaldeen Said Mohammed (Egypt)

Dr. Zelad Klotcanin (Bosnia)

Cultural Communication between Bosnia and The East in the 20th Century

Ismail Abu Banadora (Jordan)

Dr. Fikrat Caritic (Bosnia)

Fourth Session

Moderator: Muhyildeen Omairmur (Algeria)

The Role of Bosnian Orientalism in Recognition of Arabic Literature

Dr. Mohamed Mofako (Kosovo)

Dr. As'ad Doracovic (Bosnia)

Bosnian Literature in the Arabic Alphabet (Aesthetics)

Dr. Jnita Karic (Bosnia)

Bosnian Literature in the Arabic Alphabet (Historical)

Dr. Byryn Baric (Bosnia)

List of Publications

1- Mohammed Ali/Mak Dizdar and Khalil Mutran

2- The Entire Works of Khalil Mutran (5 Volumes) Dr. Ahmad Darwish, a committee from the foundation overseen by Abdulaziz Jumaa

3- Khalil Mutran's Other Face, by Dr. Mohamed Mustafa Abushwarib

4- Khalil Mutran in Arabic and Arabized Sources by Dr Mohamed Mustafa Abushwarib and Dr Sabah Al Marzook

5- Renewal in Mutran's Poetry by Dr. Said Hussein Mansour

6- Khalil Mutran in the Mirror of Criticism by Dr. Naseema Al-Ghaith

7- Khalil Mutran in Documents and Images by Omar Hathiq

8- Selections of Mutran's Poetry, selection and translation by Dr. Muneer Moitch and Dr. Omra Molivic

9- Khalil Mutran, the Life and Brilliance by Dr. Ahmad Darwish, translation Dr. Rasha Saleh

10- The Rare Consensus, Poems on Khalil Mutran, selected by Dr. Mohammed Mustafa Abushwarib

11- Contemporary Arabic Poetry in Kuwait (In Bosnian) translation and selection by Dr. Mofako and Dr As'ad Dorakovic

12- The Knowledge of the East (in Arabic) by Dr As'ad Doracovic

13- The Knowledge of the East (In English) by Dr. Asad Doracovic, trans. Adnan Hassan

14- Treasure of the East by Mohammed Beik Coptanovic, by Dr. Fahim Namitak

15- The Brilliant Jewel in the Biographies of Bosnian Scientists by Mohammad Al- Khanij, Dr. Mohamed Mofako

16- Bosnia in Contemporary Arabic Poetry, selection by Mohammed Al-Mashayikh and trasn. Ilma Dizdar and Mirza Saraykic.

17- Ossified Sleeper by Mak Dizdar (In Arabic and Bosnian) selection and tran. Elisas Frkouh.

18- Forgiveness and Harmony in Bosnia (Documents and Images) Dr. Ans Caris and Ambassador Adham Bacic.

19- The Al-Babtain Encyclopedia of Arabic Poets in the 19th and 20th Centuries Form, dialogue research papers and academic forum

20- The Al-Babtain Encyclopedia of Arabic Poets in the 19th and 20th Centuries Forum, literary research papers and academic forum

21- Abdul Aziz Saud Al-Babtain – An Introduction (new edition) by Abdul Aziz Jumaa

22- Years Of Cultural Output (Arabic) (new edition)

23- Years Of Cultural Output (English) (new edition)

Report on the Media Coverage of the 12th Session

The 12th Session was extremely successful in the amount of coverage it received, as the foundation executed its three-pronged plan of action:

The first prong of this three-pronged plan involved preparation prior to the session, the second prong to be executed during the session, and the third prong after its conclusion. These sessions were used to plan a timetable to release pertinent works by the forum, and to prepare for the different events.

- **The media consisted of:**

. Print journalist, with 40 journalists present from the Arab world.

. Satellite channels: There were several TV and satellite stations from the Arab world present, and they worked to cover different facets of the forum, including interviewing the guests and attendees. Al-Jazeera and Al-Bawadi broadcast live from the opening ceremonies, and both channels covered the entirety of events, forums, and musical shows of the forum.

. Representatives of news agencies were also present

. The Foundation's website covered the forum extensively.

. Websites took an interest in the forum and published much news about it.

. The Foundation organized for a media center at the Hollywood Hotel in Sarajevo, which ran for the entirety of the festival and helped disseminate the information more effectively.

The attending newspapers were:

Kuwait: Al Watan, Al Anbaa, Al Qabas, Al Nahar, Al Siyasa, Al Alam Alyowm, Al Dar, Al Wasat, Al Sabah, KUNA

Egypt: Al Ahram, Al Akhbar, Al Masa, Al Masri Alyom

Jordan: Arab Today, Al Dustoor, Al Rai,

Palestine: Al Hayat Al Jadeeda

Tunisia: Al Hurriya, Al Sahafa, Al Sabah

Oman: Al Watan, Oman

Morocco: Al Alam

Syria: Tishreen, Al Thawra

UAE: Al Bayan

Qatar: Al Sharq

Bahrain: Al Bilad

KSA: Al Jazeera, Al Sharq Al Awsat

Iraq: Zaman

UK: Al Hayat

Satellite Channels:

Al Bawadi, Kuwait, Live Feed

AlJazeera, Qatar, Live feed

Al Watan TV, Kuwait

Cultral Sat, KSA

Bosnia Sat (Bosnia)

Al Nile Culture (Egypt)

KTV (Kuwait)

A pain Visited, I thought it will heal me
From Love, but my agony was doubled
Oh! the Two weaks oppressed me and the controlling of the weaks is the worst

Khalil Mutran

You know nothing of my arrows
Or arcs, shields and swords
My Poetry is pure as truth
And for creatures I gave my honesty and words

Mak Dizdar



A shot of the opening ceremonies with The President of the Board Of Trustees Mr Abdul Aziz Saud Al-Babtain، Field Marshal Swar Al Dahab، Counselor Bediwan، Faisal Al Hajji، Sheik Duaij Al-Sabah، Sheikh Yusif Al Qardawi، Sheikh Ahmed Omar Hashem



The Poet Abdul Aziz Saud Al-Babtain with His Excellency Haris Silajdzic with the winners of the Al-Babtain Prizes for the 12th Session

The Forums

The First Forum: Mohammed Ben Laaboun
Kuwait, 27-30 October, 1997

The Foundation of Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain's Prize for Poetic Creativity organized the «Mohammed Ben Laaboun» Forum in Nabati poetry on 27-30 October, 1997 in Kuwait.

The Board of Trustees took a decision to organize this meeting with the aim of shedding light on the unknown epoch of this area's history in its social, cultural and political aspects since the area was almost isolated from the outer world.

The activities of this meeting started with a visit financed by the Foundation's Chairman to His Highness the Amir the late Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmed Al-Sabah at Bayan Palace on Monday 27/10/1997, accompanied by Their Excellencies the Amirs, Sheikhs, Poets, and honorable guests of the meeting.

His Highness the Crown Prince and Prime Minister the late Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah warmly welcomed the Arab cultural elites. His Highness extended a cordial invitation to the Chairman of the Board of Trustees and a number of the Foundation's guests to a breakfast party at Al-Shaab Palace on Thursday 30/10/1997. His Highness exchanged amicable and friendly conversations with them, welcoming the Foundation's guests and praising the efforts of the Foundation's Chairman.

The Opening Ceremony

The activities of the «Mohammed Ben Laaboun» Meeting commenced at 10:30 a.m. on Monday 27/10/1997, at the Special Institute's Auditorium, under the patronage of His Highness the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmed Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. A number of Ministers, Sheikhs, MPs, dignitary ambassadors to Kuwait, notables and the forum's guests comprising of poets, intellectuals and writers attended the opening ceremony. Sheikh Sabah opened the ceremony with a speech in which he said: "This meeting reminds us of those poets, who enriched our traditional lives and cultures with their talents and their creative, beautiful, eloquent and popular poetry. Their poems represented an honorable record of glory for this area."

The Board of Trustees' Chairman, Mr. Abdulaziz Al-Babtain, then delivered a speech were he welcomed the guests and thanked the meeting's patron. He noted that Nabati poetry sheds light on the various social, economic and cultural aspects of life.

The floor was then given to Dr. Abdulaziz Ben Laaboun who delivered a speech on behalf of Mohammed Ben Laaboun's Family. He expressed his gratitude and appreciation to all those who quoted Ben Laaboun's sayings and poetry and

paid special tribute to poet Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain, who embodied his love for poetry and poets through the achievements of his Foundation.

The speech of the High Organizing Committee was delivered by Mr. Abdulaziz Al-Surayea, the Foundation's Secretary General.

The meeting included a literary seminar, four evening poetry recitals, performances by Al-Qalta and Al-Ardha dance groups and two folklore heritage musical performances.

The Associate Seminar

The First Session

Chairperson: Dr. Yaqoub Al-Ghunaim
Research Title: The Emergence of the Nabati Poem; the Name Issue and the Chronological Problem
Researcher: Dr. Saed Al-Sowayyan
Commentators: Mr. Mohammed Ibn Dakheel Al-Oseimi, Dr. Mansour Al-Hazemi, Mr. Abdullah Al-Hogail, Dr. Saad Al-Bazeie and Dr. Mohammed Al-Dannai

The Second Session

Chairperson: Mr. Abdulaziz Al-Surayea
Research Title: The Nabati Poem and Vocabularies of the Era
Researcher: Mr. Suleiman Al-Fleih
Commentators: Mr. Abdullah Al-Shiti, Dr. Hafnawi Amar, Dr. Mahmoud Makki, Mr. Omar Al-Barnawi, Mr. Ibrahim Al-Khalidi and Ms. Saadiah Mofreh

The Third Session

The session was cancelled due to the absence of the researcher but the research was circulated to the participants.
Research Title: The Relation between the Nabati Poem and the Classical One
Researcher: Dr. Ghassan Al-Hassan
Written comments were received from: Ms. Saadiah Mofreh, Mr. Mubarak Al-Amari, Mr. Omar Al-Barnawi, Dr. Mohammed Al-Dannai, Dr. Abdullah Al-Moeiqel and Dr. Ibrahim Abdullah Ghol-loum. (The researcher read and replied to those comments)

The Fourth Session

Chairperson: Mr. Hamed Al-Rujeib
Research Title: The Nabati Poem: A Study in the Purposes
Researcher: Mr. Talal Al Saeed
Commentators: Dr. Ibrahim Al-Awwaji, Dr. Hafnawi Ammar, Dr. Saad Al Bazeie and Dr. Mahmoud Makki

The Fifth Session

Chairperson: Dr. Khalifa Al-Wuqayyan
Research Title: The Artistic Characteristics in Ben Laaboun's Poetry
Researcher: Dr. Saed Al-Bazeie
Commentators: Mr. Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain, Dr. Soad Al-Manei, Dr. Hani Al-Amad, Dr. Nasima Al-Ghaith and Dr. Mahmoud Makki

The Sixth Session

Chairperson: Dr. Soad Abdulwahhab
Research Title: Ben Laaboun's Erotic Poetry
Researcher: Dr. Soad Abdulaziz Al-Manei
Commentators: Dr. Hissa Al-Rifaei, Dr. Mahamoud Makki, Dr. Hafnawi Ammar and Mr. Mohammed Al-Jilwah

The Seventh Session

Chairperson: Dr. Abdullah Al-Mohanna
Research Title: Ben Laaboun; Contradictions once Again
Researcher: Ms. Saadiah Mofreh
Main Commentator: Mr. Ibrahim Al-Khalidi
Commentators: Dr. Abdulaziz Bin Abdullah Ben Laaboun, Dr. Soad Al-Manai, Dr. Saad Al-Bazeie, Dr. Soad Abdulwahhab, Mr. Ahmed Al-Damegh, Mr. Mubarak Al-Amari and Mr. Mohammed Ayesh

Additional Lectures and Studies

1- Applied musical lecture on «Laabouniyyat»
Chairperson: Mr. Abdulaziz Al-Surayea
Lecturer: The Artist Ghannam Al-Dikkan with the participation of the media star Mona Taleb
2- A Lecture entitled «Aspects of the Poet Mohammed Ben Laaboun's Biography»
Chairperson: Dr. Morsel Al-Ajmi
Lecturer: Dr. Abdulaziz Bin Abdullah Bin Laaboun
3- A research entitled «Ben Laaboun…Life and Poetry»
Researcher: Dr. Yaqoub Yousef Al-Ghuneim
4- A research entitled «The Last Steps of the Poet and Artist Mohammed Ben Laaboun; His Final Travels between Bahrain and Kuwait»
Researcher: Mr. Mubarak Amre Al-Ammari

Note: The last two researches were included in the Mohammed Bin Laaboun's meeting research book but they were not discussed during the seminar.



H.E. Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmed Al-Sabah, First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs (at the time), imaugurating the Mohammed Ben Laaboun Session.



A musical performance from the Mohammed Ben Laaboun Session.

The Second Forum: Saadi Al-Shirazi
Tehran / Shiraz, 3-5 July, 2000

The Chairman of the Board of Trustees took a decision to form the organizing committee of the meeting comprising members from both Arab and Iranian Parties. The Committee's Secretariat General persistently followed up preparations for the venue that the meeting is convening in. In this context, the committee sent delegations to Tehran to take the decision to hold the meeting on 3-5/7/2000.

The Opening Ceremony

His Excellency President Sayyed Mohammed Khatimi; President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, patronized the meeting. He opened the meeting's activities at the Islamic Summit Conference in Tehran on Monday 3/7/2000. Five hundred Arab and Iranian critics, writers, poets, presidents of cultural institutions as well as a group of audio and visual media personalities were invited to the Opening Ceremony

President Khatimi toured the book exhibition organized on the sidelines of the meeting. He then led the guests to the Islamic Summit Conference hall, where the ceremony was opened by a recitation from the Holy Quran.

President Khatimi delivered a speech in which he expressed his pleasure over the Foundation of Abdulaziz Al-Babtain's Prize for Poetic Creativity initiative to celebrate the poet Saadi Al-Shirazi.

He noted that this meeting is held to commemorate Al-Shirazi, after seven centuries from his death the sphere of cultural relations was unveiled. He pointed out that this sphere does not only require perusing the material and regional cultural traditions, but also to take into consideration the fact that the full benefit required from the traditions adds to a certain text. The artistic and cultural output, unless correlated through an intelligent skillful construction - with its own environment and cultural traditions, will not be qualified for globalization.

The Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Mr. Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain, then thanked the Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution and Dr. Khatimi for sponsoring the meeting, which "set the example that culture is the only ideal means to conduct a dialogue among the various civilizations and bring about harmony among people. It is the most important means of development."

He added "Al-Shirazi was a poet who superbly embodied the two intermixing and interconnecting sisterly cultures because his life was reasonably related to Iran and the Arab world. He wrote verses in Persian and Arabic and as a result he stood as a symbol of harmony and fusion between two nations, which were pillars of the Islamic civilization."

Ayatollah Sheikh Mohammed Ali Al-Taskhiri, President of the Islamic Culture and Relations Association in Iran, then delivered a speech and said, "The meeting is another proof evidencing the continuity of relations between the Arab and the Iranian cultures, which flourished during the early Islamic ages."

The Iranian Minister of Culture Dr. Atallah Mohajirani stressed, in a speech he delivered during the meeting, the importance of the poet Saadi because he opened a new path for Iranian poetry through his deep study of Arabic literature. Saadi was not only a great poet but also a great wise and intellectual man. He evaded radical stands and adopted moderation.

The Opening Ceremony was then concluded with recitations of selected verses of Saadi Al-Shirazi's poems in Arabic and Persian. The meeting included a lecture about «The Mutual Influence between Arabic and Persian Poetry». A seminar on «The Cultural Relations between the Iranians and Arabs; Future Horizons» was held as well as two poetic evenings.

Visiting Shiraz

On the morning of the third day, the participants went to Shiraz, where they visited the shrine of Saadi Al-Shirazi and the shrine of Hafez Al-Shirazi. A poetry recitation evening was organized with the participation of Arab and Iranian poets. The evening was concluded with speeches delivered by the Foundation's Chairman, Dr. Ali Oqla Irsan and Sheikh Mohammed Saed Nomani. The Participants left Shiraz at the end of the meeting.

The Associate Seminar

The First Session

Chairperson: Dr. Mehdi Mohaqeq
Research Title: The Mutual Influence in Arabic and Persian Poetry
The Iranian Party: Dr. Azertach Azernoush
The Arab Party: Dr. Victor Al-Keik
Some of the audience participated in the discussion

The Second Session

Chairperson: Dr. Mohammed Al-Mielee
Research Title: The Cultural Relations between the Iranians and the Arabs; the Present and Future Prospects
The Iranian Party: Sheikh Mohammed Saed Nomani and Dr. Mohammed Ali Azercheb
The Arab Party: Dr. Mohammed Al-Rumaihi and Mr. Fahmi Howaidi

Some of the audience participated in the discussion

A warbler on a branch chanted and pleased the heart.
Blessed be the poetry, blessed be the tunes.
If it desired; it could turn night into fragrance,
And turn the sand into yearning and scented leaves.
If it wanted; it could alter the stars to rhymes,
And could alter the dawn into cadence and dreams

Badawi Al-Jabal



Chairman of the Board of Trustees delivering his speech at the Opening Ceremony of the Session.

H.E. Iranian President Mohammad Khatami delivering a speech at the inauguration of Saadi Al-Shirazi Session in Tehran, 2000.





The Foundation's Chairman Mr. Abdulaziz Al-Babtain and Sheikh Moh'd Ali Al-Taskhiri at the forefront of guests participating in the Session.

The Third Forum: Al-Raheel & Al-Milad; Part of the Foundation's Contributions in Celebrating the Choosing of Kuwait as the Capital of Arabic Culture in 2001

This celebration comprised of year round activities. The most important of which were:

1. Issuing the Poetic Diary

The Foundation issued a «Poetic Diary», the first of its kind. It contained poetic quotations and sayings from various occasions. Such diaries were distributed to the Foundation's friends and guests at Al-Qurain Seventh Cultural Festival and the guests participating in the 2001 celebrations. The diaries were also sent to the Foundation's offices and delegates in order to distribute them to poets, critics and culture and media personalities in the Arab countries.

2. Two Evening Poetry Recitations

The first evening was named after the poet Fahed Al-Askar on 10/02/2001. It included recitals from 15 late Kuwaiti poets.

The second evening, which carried the name of the poet Mahmoud Shawqi Al-Ayoubi, was held on 07/04/2001. A number of poets from Kuwait and Arab countries participated in the evening

3. The Ceremony of Laying the Foundation's First Stone of the Al-Babtain Central Library for Arabic Poetry in Kuwait

This ceremony was held on 06/01/2002 under the auspices of His Highness the Amir, Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmed Al-Jaber Al-Sabah (then Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs). He delegated the Minister of Information; Chairman of the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters, His Excellency Sheikh Ahmed Al-Fahed Al-Ahmed Al-Sabah with a large number of guests, writers and intellectuals from inside and outside Kuwait.

4. The Centennial Death and Birth Ceremony

At 10:00 AM on Monday morning on 7/1/2002, The Centennial Death and Birth Ceremony was organized under the auspices of His Excellency the Minister of Information; Chairman of the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters, at the Special Institute's Auditorium.

5. The Poetry Competition on the Occasion of Organizing the Celebrations of 2001

The Foundation of Abdulaziz Saud Al-Babtain's Prize for Poetic Creativity considered limiting this competition to one subject of great importance; «Poetry's Role in the Nation's Past, Present and Future and the Poet's Role, Sufferings and Aspirations», for various reasons most important of which was unifying the competition subject, so as to facilitate complete judgment of one subject and to monitor the perspectives of creative writers.

Surprisingly, a torrent of poems was submitted to this track in comparison to the size and limit of the project. Until